The moſt ſtrange and admirable diſcouerie of the three Witches *of Warboys, arraigned, conuicted,* and executed at the laſt Aſsiſes at Huntington, for the bewitching of the fiue daughters of Robert Throckmorton Eſquire, and diuers other perſons, with ſundrie Diuelliſh and grieuous torments:

And alſo for the bewitching to death of the Lady Crumwell, the like hath not been heard of in this age.



LONDON
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To the Right Worshipfull Master

Edward Fenner, one of the Iustices of the court of her Maiesties bench.

IN these times (Right Worshipfull) wherein euery idle wit seeks to blaze abroade their vaineneſſe, there ought to be no ſmal care for the reſtraining of triuiall Pamphlets, aſwell to exerciſe the Readers in matter neceſſary, as to cut off the writing of thinges needles. Among other your worſhips care, as well for the furthering of the truth of this arraignment, being Iudge at the tryall of the malefactors, as alſo the croſsing of whatſoeuer Pamphlets ſhould haue beene preferd, reſpecting either the matter partly or confuſedly: emboldens me to prefer the patronage hereof to your worſhip, not doubting but as you haue been carefull aſwell for the tryall & iudgement of ſuch hainous offenders, and withall taken extraordinary paines in perfecting this work for the printing to others example, you will likewiſe vouchſafe to pardon our boldnes.

To the Reader.

AT length, though long first, gentle Reader, this notable arraignment and examinations of Samuel, his wife, and daughter, for their sundry witchcrafts in Huntington-shire are come to view. It hath for special cause been so long deferd, aswell that nothing might escape vntouckt which they had done, as that euery thing might bee throughly sifted, least it should passe any way corruptly. These cares hauing perfected the worke, it is now past the presse to your presence, wherein I presume yee shall finde matter as admirable as euer this age affoorded.

A true

A true and particular obſeruation of a notable piece of Witchcraft, practiſed by *John Samuel* the Father, *Alice Samuel* the Mother, and *Agnes Samuel* their Daughter, of Watboiſe in the Countie of Huntington, vpon fiue Daughters of *Robert Throckmorton* of the ſame towne and Countie Eſquire, and certaine other Maid-ſeruants to the number of twelue in the whole, all of them being in one houſe: Nouember, 1589.

ABout the tenth of Nouember which was in the yéere 1589. Miſtris Iane one of the daughters of the ſayd Maſter Throckmorton being néere the age of tenne yéeres, fell vpon ỹ ſodaine into a ſtrange kind of ſickenes and diſtemperature of body, the manner whereof was as followeth. Sometimes ſhe would néeſe very lowde and thicke for the ſpace of halfe an houre together, and preſently as one in a great trance and ſwoune lay quietly as long: ſone after ſhe would begin to ſwell and heaue vp her belly ſo as none was able to bend her, or kéepe her downe: ſometime ſhe would ſhake one legge and no other part of her, as if the paulſie had béen in it: ſometimes the other: preſently ſhe would ſhake one of her armes, and then the other, and ſone after her head, as if ſhe had béen infected with the running paulſie: Continuing in this caſe two or thrée daies, amongſt other neighbours in the towne there came into the houſe of Maſter Throckmorton, the foreſayd Alice Samuel to viſite this ſicke child, who dwelled in the next houſe on the Northſide of the ſayd Maſter Throckmorton. The childe when the old woman came into the parlour was held in another womans armes by the fire ſide, ſo ſhe went into the chimney corner and ſate downe hard by the child, the Grandmother of the child, & the mother being alſo preſent, ſhe had not béen there long, but the child grew ſomething worſe then ſhe was at her comming, and on the ſodaine cryed (ſaying) Grandmother loke where the old witch ſitteth (poynting to the ſayd mother Samuel) did you euer ſée (ſayd the child) one more like a witch then ſhe is: take off her blacke thumbd cap, for I can not abide to loke on her. The mother of the child little then ſuſpecting any ſuch matter, (as afterwards fell out) was very angrie

with her child and rebuked her for saying so, and thinking that it might proceede of some lightnes in the childs braine by reason of her great neesing and want of sleepe, toke her and layd her downe vpon a bed, and hanged curtaines against the windowes, thereby hoping to bring her into a sleepe, but much adoe they had to pacifie and quiet the child. The old woman hearing this sate still, and gaue neuer a word, yet looked very rufully, as afterwards was remembred by them that sawe her. The childe still continuing her manner of sicknes, rather worse then better, within two daies after her parents sent the childs vrine to Cambridge to Doctor Barrow, a man well knowne to be excellent skilfull in Phisicke, who returned this answere: namely, that he did perceiue no kind of distemperature saue onely that he thought she might be troubled with wormes, and therefore sent his medicine accordingly, but the child was no whit the better: so within two daies after they sent againe to the same man, declaring vnto him the manner of her fits more at large: he sayd that the vrine which they then againe brought to him, shewed no such kind of disquietnes to be in her bodie: and to be the falling sicknes (which the parents did suspect to be in the child) he would warrant her cleere from that disease. Then he sent other prescripts as he thought good to purge her bodie, which toke no place nor preuailed any thing in the child as he looked for. Then the parents sent to him the third time (as his desire was to vnderstand how his Phisicke wrought) declaring that it wrought nothing at all as he looked for, neither that the child was any way amended. Then Master Doctor loking againe in the vrine, and perceiuing the childs body to be in good temper, (as he thē sayd for any thing that he sawe) demaunded whether there was no sorcerie or witchcraft suspected in the child: answer was made no. Then sayd he, all surely cannot be well, for it is not possible that the childs bodie should be distempered by any naturall cause as then was declared to him, and no signe thereof at all to appeare in the vrine: notwithstanding for their better assurance, if the messenger would goe to any other skilfull man in the towne to take further aduise, he sayd he would be very well contented. Whereupon the messenger went to Master Butler, who considering of the vrine, and hearing the manner of the childs trouble, sayd, that he thought it might be the wormes, which yet he did not perceiue to be by the vrine, and if it were the wormes, that then it was a very

strange

ſtrange kind of griefe to be cauſed by them in that ſort, & appoin-
ted the ſame medicine and phiſicke (for the remedie) which before
Doctor Barrow had preſcribed: which being knowne was not ap-
plied to the childe, becauſe Maſter Doctor Barrow had ſayd that if
Maſter Throckmorton (to whom he wiſhed very well, as he then
ſayd, by reaſon of ancient acquaintance with him) would followe
his aduice, he ſhould not ſtriue any more therewith by phiſick, nor
ſpend any more money about it: for he himſelfe ſayd, ỹ he had some
experiẽce of the malice of ſome witches, & he verily thought ỹ there
was ſome kind of ſorcerie and witchcraft wrought towards his
child. After which anſwere from M. Doctor Barrow, M. Throck-
morton reſolued himſelfe to reſt vpon Gods pleaſure, not ſtriuing
any further by Phiſicke to helpe his daughter: yet both himſelfe
and his wife were free from any ſuch conceit of witchcraft which
Maſter Doctor Barrow did ſuſpect, vntill within one iuſt moneth
after (the very day and houre almoſt obſerued) two more of his
daughters elder then the other by two or thrée yeares, fell into the
ſame like extremities as the other ſiſter before them was in, and
cried out vpon Mother Samuel: ſaying, take her away, looke where
ſhe ſtandeth here before vs in a blacke thrumbd cap, (which kind
of cap indéede ſhe did vſually weare, but ſhe was not then preſent)
it is ſhe (ſayd they) that hath bewitched vs, and ſhe will kill vs if
you doe not take her away. This thing did ſomething moue the
Parents, and ſtrike into their minds a ſuſpition of witchcraft, yet
deuiſing with themſelues for what cauſe it ſhould be wrought
vpon them or their children, they could not imagine, for they were
but newly come to the towne to inhabite, which was but at Mi-
chaelmas before, neither had they giuen any occaſion (to their
knowledge) either to her or any other, to practiſe any ſuch malice
againſt them. Within leſſe then a moneth after that, another ſi-
ſter yonger then any of the reſt, about the age of nine yeares fell
into the like caſe, and cryed out of mother Samuel as the other did.

Soone after Miſtris Ioane the eldeſt ſiſter of them all, about the
age of fiftéene yeares, was in the ſame caſe and worſe handled in-
déed then any of ỹ other ſiſters were, for ſhe hauing more ſtrength
then they, and ſtriuing more with the Spirit then the reſt, not be-
ing able to ouercome it, was the more grieuouſlie tormented: for
it forced her to néeſe, ſchrich and groane verie fearefullie: ſome-
time it would heaue vp her bellie, and bounce vp her bodie

with

with such violence, that had she not bin kept vpon her bed, it could not but haue greatly bruised her bodie, and many times sitting in a chaire hauing her fit, she would with her often starting, and heauing, almost breake the chaire she sate in: yet was there no striuing with thē in this case, for the more they laboured to helpe them and to kéepe them downe, the more violently they were handled, being depriued of all vse of their senses during their fits, for they could neither sée, heare, nor féele any bodie, onely crying out of mother Samuel, desiring to haue her taken away from them, who neuer more came after she perceiued her selfe to be suspected.

These kinde of fits would hold them, sometimes longer, sometimes shorter, either an houre or two, sometimes halfe the day, yea the whole day, and many times they had fiue or seauen fits in an houre, yet when it pleased God to deliuer them of their fits, they neither knew what they had said, neither yet in what sort they had béen delt withall, as hereafter shall be declared in particular.

After that Mistris Ioane had béen thus handled a while, the spirit as it should séeme would sound in her eares some thing which she would declare in her fit, and amongst the rest, it shewed vnto her one time, that there should be twelue of them which should be bewitched in that house, in one sort or other, and named them all vnto her, being al women kind, and seruants in the house, her selfe and her sisters being fiue of the number, all which proued afterwards very true, for they had all their seuerall griefes, and most of them afflicted in the same sort & manner as these fiue sisters were: of whom and the manner of their faith, if it should be written in particular how they were delt withall, there would be no end of this booke.

And this may suffice to be knowne concerning the seruants, that when they first fell into their fits, they all cried out of mother Samuel, as the children did, saying, take her away Mistris, for Gods sake take her away and burne her, for she will kill vs all if you let her alone, hauing the same miseries and extremities that the children had, and when they were out of their fits they knewe no more then the children did, what either they had done or sayd: and presently vpon their departure from Mistris Throckmortons house they were all very well, as at any time before, and so haue continued euer since without suspition of any such kind of berations, and those seruants that came in their places for the most

part

part of them, they were afflicted in the like [illegible]
space of two yeares together.

Upon Fryday, being Saint Valentines euen, the thirteenth of Februarie, in the two and thirtieth yeere of her Maiesties raigne, Gilbert Pickering of Tichmersh groue, in the Countie of Northampton Esquire, being vncle to the sayd Child, and hearing how strangely they were vexed and troubled, went to Warboyse, aswel to visite and see them, and also to comfort their parents: comming to the house where they were, found them all at that present very wel, as any children could be: and about one halfe howre after, the sayd M. Pickering was informed that one Mistris Andley, & Master Whittle of Saint Iues, and others were gone to the house of Mother Samuel to perswade her to come to see, and to visite the saide children, and because they tarryed long, it seemed to the said Master Pickering that they could not bring her, although that the said Mother Samuel had often sayd, she would come to the saide children, whensoeuer it pleased their Parents to send for her, and she would venture her life in water vp to the chin, and leese some parte of her best blood to doe them any good: but now as it seemed, her minde was cleane altered, the cause was, as it was suspected, for that all the said children (as it is sayd before) in their fits cryed out of her, saying that she had bewitched them, and that she also feared the cõmon practise of scratching would be vsed on her, which nothing lesse at that present was intended, for both the parents and the said M. Pickering had taken aduise of good Diuines of the vnlawfulnes thereof, wherefore the sayd M. Pickering went to Mother Samuels house, aswell to see her as also to perswade her that if shee were any cause of the childrens trouble, that it might be amended, who comming to the sayd house, found there the foresayd Master Whittle, Mistris Andley, and others, perswading her to visite the sayd children, but she with lowde speeches vtterly refused the same: whereupon the sayd master Pickering told Mother Samuel that he had authoritie to bring her, and if she would not go with him willingly and of her owne accord, hee would force and compell her whether she would or no, which hee then did, together with her daughter Agnes Samuel, and one Cicely Burder, who were all suspected to be witches, or at the least in the confederacie with Mother Samuel: and as they were going to the sayd Master Throckmortons house, M. Whittle, Mistris Andley and others going be-

Agnes Samuel, and the sayd Cicely Burder in the middle parte, and the saide M. Pickering behinde them, the said master Pickering perceiuing that olde mother Samuel would haue willingly talked with her daughter Agnes, but the saide Master Pickering followed so neere behinde them, that they could not conferre, and when they came at the doore of Master Throckmortõs house, mother Samuel vsed curtesie to the sayd M. Pickering, offering him to goe into the house before her, which he refused, & in the entry of that same house (for either then or not at all) she thought that she should haue had time to speak to her daughter: the said mother Samuel did thrust her head as neere as she could to her daughters head, and said these words. I charge thée do not confesse any thing: which the said M. Pickering being behinde them perceiuing, thrust his head as neere as he could betwéen their heads whilst the words were spoken, and hearing them, presently replied to old mother Samuel, thou naughty woman, doest thou charge thy daughter not to confesse any thing: nay saith she, I said not so, but I charged her to hastẽ her self home to get her Father his dinner. In ỳ meane time whilst these words were in speaking M. Whittle, maistris Andley and others went into the house, & thrée of the children thẽ standing in the hal by the fire perfect wel, but no sooner had mother Samuel entred the hall, but at one moment the said thrée children fell down vpon ỳ ground strangely tormented, so ỳ if they had béen let lie still on the ground, they would haue leaped & sprung like a quick Pickerel newly taken out of the water, their bellies heauing vp, their head & their héeles still touching the ground as though they had béen tumblers, and would haue drawen their heads and their héeles together backwards, throwing out their armes, with great grones most strangely to be heard, to the great griefe of the beholders: but not long after they were thus fallẽ to the ground, the said M. Whittle toke vp one of ỳ sayd children, which was Iane Throckmorton, and carried her into an inward chamber, laying her vpon a bed, and being a man of as great strength as most bee this day in England, and the childe not aboue nine yeares old, yet he could not hold her down to the bed, but that she would heaue vp her belly far bigger and in higher measure for her proportion, than any woman with child ready to be deliuered, her belly being as hard as though there had béen for the present time a great loafe in the same, and in such manner it would rise and fal an hundred times in the space of

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an houre, her eyes being closed as though she had been blinde, and her armes spread abroad so stiffe and strong, that the strength of a man was not able to bring them to her body: then the said Walter Pickering went into the Parlour where the sayd child was, & standing on the farther side of the bed from the child viewing the order of her, presently the sayd childe stretched forth her right arme to that side of the bed next to the sayd M. Pickering, & there scratching the couering of the bed, sayd these wordes very often, Oh that I had her, Oh that I had her: whereupon the said M. Pickering was in great admiration what the meaning of the said wordes should tend vnto, & the rather for that the sayd M. Gilbert Pickering was of that opinion, that scratching was meerely vnlawful, yet the said Walter Pickering put his own hand to the childes hand whilest she was speaking the wordes, but the childe feeling his hand would not scratch it, but forsoke his hand and scratched still on the bedde, her face being turned on the contrary side from the sayd M. Pickering, her eyes being closed, and master Whittle lying in a manner with his whole body and waight ouer her, to hold down her belly, fearing that she would haue burst her back.

Notwithstanding, the occasion being thus offered by the childe, or rather by the spirit in the child, to disclose some secret, whereby the Witches might be by some meanes or token made manifest and knowen, the said M. Pickering went into the hall and toke mother Samuel by the hand (who went as willingly as a Beare to ỹ stake) and brought her to the further side of the bed from the childe, who lay scraping with her nailes on the bed couering, saying, Oh that I had her: then the said M. Pickering in very softe speeches (so that the childe could not heare) said to mother Samuel, put your hand to the childes hand, but she would not, then ỹ said M. Pickering for examples sake, put his hand to the childes hand, so did also Mistresse Andley and others at the same instant, but the childe would scarce touch, much lesse scratch any of their hands, then the said Master Pickering without either malice to the woman, confidence, or opinion in scratching (onely to taste by this experiment whereto the childes wordes would tend) toke mother Samuels hand and thrust it to the childes hande, who no sooner felt the same, but presently the childe scratched her, with such vehemencie that her nayles brake into Spilles with the force and earnest desire that she had to reuenge: whilest the childe was thus scratching, the saide Master

Pickering did couer Mother Samuels hand with his owne hande, to trie what the childe would doe in this extraordinarie passion, but the childe would not scratch his hand, but felt to and fro vpon the bed for that which she missed, and if by any meanes she coulde come with her hand, or but with one of her fingers to touch Mother Samuels hand, she would scratch that hand onely and none other: Yea, sometimes whiles the saide Master Pickering with his hand did couer mother Samuels hand, the sayd childe would put one of her fingers betweene the fingers of the sayd Master Pickering, and scratch mother Samuels hand that lay nethermost with that one finger, all her other fingers lying on the hand of the sayd Master Pickering without mouing.

And in this passion if at any time mother Samuels hand had béen hidden or withdrawen from the childe, shee would haue mourned and shewed apparant tokens of dislike, as though there had béene some great discourtesie offered, and this is to bee noted for a most certaine trueth, for so it was by the sayd Master Pickering at the Assises in Huntington giuen in euidence, that the childes eyes were closed, so that she could not sée any person, for so was the order of their Fittes; and though she at that present could haue séene, yet the childs head and neck were so turned backward into Master Whittles bosome, who couered (as before is sayde) both her head, face, and body, with his bodie, in such sorte, and so close, that it was vnpossible for the childe to sée the company which stoode on the further side of the bed.

This being done, the sayd Master Pickering departed out of that place into another Parlour, where there was a woman holding one of the other children, which childe, as the sayde Master Pickering passed by, scraped the womans Apron that held her, saying: Oh that I had her, Oh that I had her. Then the said master Pickering went into the hall, and did bring Cicely Burder to the said childe, and for breuitie sake, as the said master Pickering did with mother Samuel to the first childe, so did he to Cicely Burder, and as the first childe did to mother Samuel, so this second childe did to Cicely Burder in all respects.

There was a third childe also at that present in the hall, which spake the same words, but the Father of the children, and master Doctor Dorington, Parson of the same parish, came then into the house, not allowing that which was done, by reason whereof the

third

thich was not put in proſe.

The ſame night after ſupper, the children being all very well, and out of their fittes, maſter Doctor Dorington made motion to haue ſome prayers before the company departed, the company thē kneeling downe, Doctor Dorington began to pray; but no ſooner had he vttered the firſt word, but euen at one inſtant of time all the children fell into their fits, with ſuch terrible ſcriches and ſtrange néelings, ſo wonderfully tormented, as though they ſhould haue béene torne in péeces, which cauſed Doctor Dorington to ſtay in the middeſt of his prayers, and ſayd theſe words, or the like in effect, were we beſt to goe any further? but he had no ſooner made ſtay, and his breath ſtayed from praying, but the children were quiet (but ſtill in their Fittes) then he began to pray agayne, & thē the children, or rather the wicked ſpirit in the children forced them as before, this was proued often in ỹ time of prayer, for whē he had made an ende of any one prayer the children ceaſed and were quiet: whē he begā to pray, they begā to ſcrike: whē he ended, they ended.

The next day being S. Valentines day, the ſaide maſter Pickering brought home to his houſe at Tichmerſh Groue aforeſaid, one of the ſayd children called Elizabeth Throckmorton being in her fitte, who no ſooner being on horſebacke, and out of Warboyſe Towne, but ſhe was well, and ſo continued till ſhe came into the ſaid maſter Pickerings houſe, but no ſooner had ſhe entred into the houſe, but that the fit toke her ſodainly gaſping being not able to ſpeake, onely thus it commeth, ſhe pitched her ſelfe backwardes, all the ioynts of her backe bone being as it were drawen together, thruſting out her belly ſo ſtrongly, that none could bend her backe agayne, being very ſtrong and heauy, ſhaking her limmes, and oftentimes her head when it riſeth ſo high, but ſpecially her armes, like to thoſe which ſtruggle and plunge betwixt life and death, being both dumbe, deafe and blinde, her eyes cloſed vp. Now this held her not a quarter of an houre, but with a gaſpe ſhe came agayne to her ſelfe, ſtroking her eyes as though ſhe had béene but aſléepe.

Sometimes being taken in her fitte, ſhe is but deafe onely when ſhe can ſpeake, or rather (as we thinke) the ſpirit in her, but very vainely; and ſhe can ſée alſo but with a ſmall glimmering, when if you looke vpon her, ye would déeme her to haue no ſight at all. Sometimes alſo ſhe can heare onely, and not euery body, but ſome one whom ſhe liketh and choſeth out from the reſt: ſometimes ſhe

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seeth onely, and as plainely as any other, but neither heareth nor speaketh any thing, her teeth being set in her head, somtimes both hearing and seeing very well, and yet not able to speake.

Aboue all things she delighteth in play: she will picke out some one body to play with her at cardes, and but one only, not hearing, seeing, or speaking to any other, but being awake she remembreth nothing that she did, heard, or spake, affirming that shee was not sicke, but only slept.

She continued well vntil night, and before Supper in time of thanksgiuing, it vexed her very strangely, taking her at the very name of grace, and holding her no longer then grace was in saying: She sate very well at the Table, but no sooner had she put vp her knife, but it pitched her backwards, then being taken from the table she was well vntill thanksgiuing, all which time she was most grieuously vexed and no longer. After wardes she was very quiet and well vntill motion was made of prayers, all which time it seemed as though it would haue rent her in pieces, with such scriching and outcries, and vehement neesing, as that it terrified ỹ whole cõpany, but prayers being ended she was quieted, but still in her fit.

Then Master Pickering and others that were acquainted with ỹ manner of it, said, that if any should reade the Bible, or any other Godly booke before her, it would rage as before, so long as they read, but because it was a thing very strange, and therefore hardly beleeued, one did take a Bible and read the first Chapter of Saynt Iohn the first verse. At the hearing wherof she was as one besides her minde, when he that read held his peace she was quiet: when he read againe it tormented her: when he ceased, it ceased: this diuers did proue many times.

Nay, at the motion of any good worde, as if any that stoode by chaunced to name God, or prayed God to blesse her, or named any word that tended to God or godlines, it raged all one as if any had read or prayed by her, and thus she was carried to bed still continuing in her fit.

In the morning being the Sabbaoth day, she came down into the Hall towards prayer time, & being asked whether she would tarry the time of prayers or not, she answered that she would do as they would haue her. Then was she asked whether she could reade, she sayd that she could once, but she had almost forgotten now: Then being asked further whether shee had prayed that day, shee made

answere

answere it would not suffer her: then whether shée vsed to pray at home, she answered that it would not giue her so much time.

The one saide to her, sith it will not suffer you to pray, nor any other (seeming to haue eares) pray to your selfe secretly in your hart and spirite, and beginning to tell her that God vnderstoode the inward sighs and grones of the heart, as wel as the lowdest cries of the mouth; she sodainely fell into her fit being more strongly and strangely tormented than euer she was before, and being carried away, her fit continued & increased all prayer time, albeit she was out of the hearing, with such vehement cries, scriching, and continuall neesing, that many times prayers were constrained to be ceased for the time, so much it amazed the whole company: praiers being ended, shée came to her selfe with a gaspe, wiping her eyes, being presently as well as any body, as though it had neuer been she.

She came downe to dinner, and during the time of grace, it held her againe (which was vsuall) yet will it suffer better another to say grace than her selfe, but no body well: At dinner time it plaide with her, for sometimes shée hath merry fits, putting her hand besides her meate, and her meate besides her mouth, mocking her, and making her misse her mouth, whereat shée would sometimes smile, and sometimes laugh exceedingly, and amongst many other things this is worthy to be noted, that being in her fit she loked farre more sweetely and cherefully than when shée is awake: and although being tormented most pittifully, that it would haue grieued any to see it, yet being once awaked and out of her fit, she is as well as any body. At length Master Gilbert Pickering called to minde an experiment which was made at Warboyse, which was, that if one toke any of those children in their fittes, and carried them into the Churchyarde which is adioyning to the house, they presently awaked, but bring them in againe they were as before, carry them forth, and they came to themselues: goe into the house, and immediately their fit toke them, and this was as often found true as proued. Hereupon wée proued the like with this childe, and carried her out of the house, and she presently recouered, but within the house it toke her againe.

But the certainety of this failed vs sone (as Sathan is most vncertaine) yet for thrée daies space, if she were carried abroad in her fit, it would leaue her, and not take her againe vntill shée was brought into the house.

Hereof

Hereof we reioyced greatly with thanksgiuing to God for the childes release in some sort. Hereupon arose a question amongst diuers that were present at that time what they thought thereof, some sayd one thing, some another, in the end it was thought ẏ the spirit had it not in commission to molest her abroad, because he is but a vassall to the wicked purpose of her that detayneth him.

As the Angel of God said vnto Lot, I can doe nothing til thou be come thither, much lesse may the Angels of Sathã go beyond their commission. But when this imagination was concluded vpon, & once vttered forth, the sayd experiment presently sayled: For now contrarily when she was caryed abroade, you would haue thought the childe had bẽn in danger of rending & vtter spoyling, which did greatly feare and amaze the best that did sẽe it. But it would be too long to shew all the trickes and collusions of Sathan in wresting and ouer-ruling all the parts & members of this childe, yet some of the prancks of his new-fangled nature shall be reported, who is the prince of this world, and a ring-leader of new fashions.

The obseruations of certaine daies follow, from the sirtẽnth of February to the 26. of ẏ moneth, she was taken most commonly 5. or 6. times a day, sometimes ten times, sometimes twice, somtimes once, & not vntill night. On the seuentẽnth of February she could not refraine from gasping and gaping, and being demaunded the cause, she answered, that it forced her thereunto. She was then perswaded to striue agaynst it, and to shut her mouth, or to stop it, but still she could not refrayne, vntill in the end by much strife and contention she ouercame it, yet not before it was sayd in her hearing, that the spirit was thought to be a spirit of the ayre, entring by a breath, & departing by a breath, because it was an vsual signe of her present awaking out of her fitte & recouery, when she stretched her armes, often gasping, and long, with a little rubbing of her eyes, and thus this continuall gasping ceased with her, but only at such times, as when she awaked out of her fitte.

On the 26. of February she read and sung Psalmes, being wel al the day vntill the euening, when being in her fit she cried out vpon the foresayd mother Samuel, fearing and crying, that she would put a mouse into her mouth, sometimes a cat, a frog, and sometimes a Toad, clapping her hãds before her mouth. Sodainly in this feare she start out of ones armes that held her, and ran away out of the doores into another room, where sodainly her legs failed her, & was

catched

catched by by one that followed her, still crying away with your mouse mother Samuel, I will none of your mouse, after which time she imagined that she had a mouse in her belly.

The 17. of February she was partly well, yet in her fit all the day long, being broad awake, yet nodding at every second word, as if she had been drowsie, many times with meate in her mouth, or whatsoever shee did, shee gaue a nod with the head, and that very lowe euerie minute. This drowsie fit as sleeping and yet awake, continued neere two daies.

The 18. whereas before it bended her backwards, now it bended her forwards, coueting to touch the grounde, as if shee would haue stode vpon her head, turning her hands cleane backwards: and if any moued her contrarie to her bending, all that present she would crie out, being in danger of breaking her limbs, neither were any able to bend her straight.

The first day of March at dinner time, she fell into such sore neesing about fortie times together, and faster then one could well count them, in so much that blood issued out of her nose and mouth, but all night being in bed, she fell into the most sorowfull fit of al, weeping with sobs and sighs most pittifully to beare with a strong imagination, crying, and could not be appeased (for her senses were all benummed) saying, that now the Witches would kill her Father, destroy both her and all her sisters, this continued aboue two houres, after in a sleep she fell into a sore bleeding, at the least a pint at both the nosethrils and mouth.

In the morning being awaked shee remembred no such thing, nor that she bled at all. The second of march she had all merry fits, full of exceeding laughter (as they were al often times in their fits) and that so hartely and excessiuely, as that if they had been awaked they would haue been ashamed thereof, being also full of trifling toyes, & some merrie iests of her own deuising, whereat she would force both the standers by, and her selfe to laugh greatly. In this fit she did chose one of her uncles to goe to cards with her, as desirous therefore to see the end of it, they plaied together: some after there was a book brought and laid before her, whereat presently she flung her selfe backwards, which being taken away, she presently recouered and plaied againe; this was often proued and founde true. And thus playing at cardes, her eies were almost cleane shut, but the sight of her eies were cleane couered, she saw the cards and

nothing els, she knew her vncle and no man els, she heard and answered him, and none other, she perceiued him whē he plaied foule, or did steale from her, her counters or cards, but any other might take them out of her hands, she not seeing or feeling. Sometimes she would chose another, whom she did see, and heare: sometimes a little child, but euer one and no more in any one fit. The fift day of March she fell into a mourning fit, and longed to goe home to her fathers: on the first day one of her fathers men came ouer to Tichmersh groue, whom she had often called for in her fit to carrie her to Warboyse to her fathers, saying, that if she were but halfe way, she knew that she should be well, desirous therefore to proue it, he carried her on horsebacke towards Warboyse, & being scarce gone a bow shot, at a pond side she awaked, marueiling where she was, not knowing any thing, but no soner ỹ horse head was turned back, but she fell into her fit againe. This was often proued at that time to be true, now this also fell out infallible: for three daies after, & no longer, so often as she was carried to the pond (as many strangers desired to see her wel and out of her fit) she awaked, and was very well, but returning her face onely she fell into it againe.

The eight day of March she caught a new kind of going antique wise, she could goe very well two steppes, but the third she halted downe-right, giuing a becke with her head as low as her knées, & as she was sitting by the fire, she sodainly start vp, saying, that she would goe to Warboyse, but she was staied at the portall doore, where going out with a nod, hit her forehead against ỹ latch, which raised a knob the bignesse of a walnut, & being carried afterwards to the pond, where awaking she asked how her face came so hurt. There she was left all day well, playing in the companie of other children at bowles and other sport: (for the more foolish sport she vseth, the more the spirit spareth her) but so soone as any motion was made of comming into the house, it presently toke her, so that she was neuer out of her fit within doores for twelue daies together eating and drinking in her fit, but neither seeing, hearing, nor yet vnderstanding, cleane without memorie, yet speaking, or rather the spirit within her. The 9. of March she could not goe but hop, for the one leg was drawne vp, & would not touch the ground by a foote, and then being carried to the pond, she awaked not, and her leg was restored. This failed not for other three daies, but still she went but vpon one leg in the house.

The

The tenth day after she had eaten some milke, she listned and hearkened, (as often she would doe) demanding whether no bodie heard the spirit in her belly lapping the milke which she had eaten. Then she began to dislike all bad things, and delighted in reading, saying, that the spirit loued no goodnesse: therefore she burned all the cards that she could come by, she would reade when you would haue thought that she could not haue seene ỹ booke, but sometimes it quite closed vp her eyes, sometimes it tied her tongue, sometimes it set her teeth, sometime it would fling away the booke, especiallie at any good word, if she could catch the booke, and be able to hold it still by struing, she would clap it fast to her face, vntill she could see, for sometimes in her reading it would fling her backward, and swell her bellie in such sort and strange wise, that two strong men were not able to hold her downe, in so much that she would complaine her selfe, saying, can no man hold me downe, yet the childe was not then ten yeares old.

The eleuenth day one chanced to aske her, or rather the Spirit in her: loue you the word of God: whereat she was sore troubled and vered. But loue you Witchcraft: it seemed content: or loue you the Bible: againe it shaked her: but loue you Papistrie: it was quiet. Loue you prayer: it raged. Loue you the Masse: it was still. Loue you the Gospell: againe it beaued vp her bellie: so that what good thing soeuer you named, it misliked, but whatsoeuer concerning the Popes paltrie, it seemed pleased and pacified.

The twelfth day she was carried vnto the pond, but she halted still, for there is no trueth or certaintie in the Author of lyes.

The thirteene, foureteene and fifteene dayes she passed away the time in a heauie fit: on the sirteene day in the afternoone she start vp sodainly and ran out of the place where she was, and awaked in the way, but at fiue of the clocke it toke her againe, vntill the nert day three of the clocke: but at fiue it toke her againe: & this also failed the third day: yet sitting at supper she awaked, whereat one sayd, thankes be to God: at which very words she fell backwards into her fit againe.

It followeth to declare, as it hath been further very truely obserued in this childe Elizabeth Throckmorton, remayning at Fishmershgroue, that euerie moneth from March to Julie she hath had some veration of bodie, which is termed by the name of fits, because of the diuers manners thereof, so that she was neuer

cleare and perfectly tried as it may be thought since her first dis-
tation, although in some of the moneths she had but onely one fit.
And now because it seemeth to giue a freshe on-set, and a new at-
tempt vpon her, we haue noted in particular wise, how shée hath
béen diuersly handled.

For the maunor of it, you haue heard before to be very strange,
it is first perceiued commonly to be in her belly, by the great swel-
ling & heauing vp thereof, from thence it ariseth vp into her throate
stopping the passage of her breath, so that she is oftentimes forced
to drawe the same with great difficultie and straightnes. Remai-
ning there, it tieth her tongue many times, and setteth her teeth to-
gether: It will further ascend vp into her head, and shake the same
as if she had the paulsie, benumming all her parts, and depriuing
her of the vse of her senses: sometimes it will be in her armes and
hands after the same manner, sometimes in one place, many times
in another, and sometimes in all places at once.

For the continuance of it, it hath béen either short or longer, mild
or more vehement (as it pleased God to permit) for it hath alwaies
from the beginning kept a very mutable and vncertaine course in
dealing with them.

Now the 29. of July 1590. she had a fit from noone vntil night
sléeping the most part of the time: vpon the thirtie she had three se-
uerall fits in the afternoone going to bed in her fit, but all of them
were verie milde and without any such vehement plunges, and ex-
cessiue nersing as in former times.

Vpon the second of August presently after dinner she fel very so-
dainely (as many times before) into her ordinarie maner of fits, not
hauing so much liberty as to say it commeth, which words she com-
monlie vsed to vtter in great haste imediatly before the assault,
which was very strong and troublesome at this time: yet towards
the end, shée fell into a sléepe, and so continued vntill supper time,
when awaking she was very sicke, and complained that shée was
griped at her heart and bellie, and indéed no marnoll, for it had sore
vexed her. In this sickly fit shée remained the three next daies fol-
lowing, eating very little, yet without any apparant signe of swel-
ling, or other troublesome fits vntil the fift day, when she had some
few twitches, and some after awakened, yet not ceasing to com-
plaine of griefe and paine at her heart and bellie. But the next day
morning all paine ceased, and then she fell to hir meat chearefully,

and

and was very well as at any time before. But Sathan the malignant spirite (for it is he without question that disquieted the childe) enuied her long and good estate, for the same night, before she went to bed, she had two grieuous fittes, which caused many teares to fall from her eies, as also from them that stood by, and so shée was caried to bed. The next morning she was found to be in her fitte, and so continued the whole daie, being in her fitte, and in her bed, lying as one in a drowsie sléepe, eating and drinking in her fit, speaking very little, but sometimes saying, that she would goe to Warboyse, for there her sisters were well (as she saide) and named some of them, whereas when shée is out of her fitte, shée is loath to bée drawne to any place from Tichmarsh groue.

The next day, which was the 13. of August, she was taken vp in her fit and made readie, but when she should come to moue herselfe, the one of her legs was drawne vp close to her bodie, almost a foote from the ground, so she sate in a chaire all the day receiuing her meate at due times when it was brought vnto her, yet neuer moued her countenance, appearing as one in a trance, bereft of sense and motion, yea, and life (to loke vpon) saue that shée breathed: yet would she of her selfe (for she could neither heare, sée, nor speake to any) lift vp her hands a little in token of thankesgiuing after meate receiued, (which is not to be omitted) because it was comfortable to the beholders.

The 14. of August she was caried abroad into the open ayre to sée if she would come to her selfe (as diuers times in her former fits she had done) but there is now no change in her, shée is the same without the doore as within, and now shée beginneth to complaine on that side whereof the leg is drawne vp, if any doe but touch her thereon, shée will whimper and grone as if it were sore, yet there is no appearance of outward hurt: if you touch her on the other side, shée will laugh after a iesting manner, and loke merrilie in countenance, but there is not one word with her all the day long, from this day vntill the eight of September, for she was a whole moneth together in this drowsie fitte. Manie thinges happened worthie the remembrance, as that sometimes shée would sowe all the day long, and mourne if her worke were taken from her, sometimes she would winde yarne, or knit, but neuer cast vp her eyes or countenance, some daies againe shée would be merrie and lightsome, finding many things wherein shee would take delight, as

playing with her cosens (children in the house) at some light and childish sportes, wherein children doe passtime themselues, and all in her fit, as if she were as perfect as any of them.

Sometimes againe shée would bée so heauie and drowping, that shée could not sit in her chayre, but would cast her selfe on the ground, and so ly with a cushen or pillow vnder her head halfe the day together. Sometimes she would take a booke and reade either chapters or praiers very well, but whensoeuer shée misstermed a word, or slipped in any thing, she could not heare any that corrected her, though he had spoken neuer so loude, yet if hée had pointed to the place with his finger, or giuen some other signe, shée would haue gone backe and reade ouer the place againe, sometimes reading it true, sometimes not. Againe, when she came to this worde Sathan or the diuell, she should haue much to doe to passe it quietly, or to kéepe the booke in her hands, for it would shake her armes, and straine her body very sore, insomuch that shée would oftentimes say, wilt thou not suffer mée to say my prayers? Wilt thou not suffer me to reade? (answering) I will say them, I will reade, with often and vehement repetition, and would in no case forsake her booke, except by great strife and violence, it cast it forth of her hands (as many times it did) yet would shée receiue it againe, being brought vnto her, and many times fetch it her selfe: and in the end after much contention and much striuings she should read quietly: and thus shée was vsed for the most part euery night when she went to bed, but especially in time of her prayers.

Further, for the space of two or thrée daies, if Sathan had béen named, or the diuell vnto her, it would haue troubled her, and so often as those words had béen named, so many twitches, which was very strange to behold: Also at the naming of Mother Samuel (which will not bée forgotten) it would shake her by the shoulders and armes, as if it would shiuer her in péeces, giuing signes of great dislike thereof, and threatning as if there were some mystery in it. And sometimes her very name would cast her presently into her fit, and being in the middest thereof, shée would say, could you not haue held your tongue?

I was well inough before you named her, with many such like spéeches, and thus she continued long in this drowsie maner, speaking very little all the time but that she would say sometimes that she should not be well vntill she came to Warboyse, or a mile vpon

the

the way, and then she should be well. One time she asked the question whether any body in the house had slept so long as shée had done, saying that it had béen a long night with her, for she had then continued so fiue dayes, and if euery body had slept so long as shée had done (meaning the seruants of the house) why then I wonder (quoth she) how all the worke could be done.

Upon the last day of August, she had a very sodaine and sore fit presently after dinner, for she cried out very grieuously to heare, that mother Samuel stode before her in a white sheet, with a black Child sitting vpon her shoulders, saying: loke where she is, loke where she is, away with your Childe mother Samuel, I will none of your Childe, trembling euery ioynt, and sweating maruellously, calling vpon her Uncle master Pickering, and others to saue her from mother Samuels Childe, and with such lamentable speeches, because no body would helpe her, that it did greatly grieue those that were present. After this fit ended, her téeth were set in her head, by which meanes her speech also was taken from her, it may be because she disclosed more than mother Samuel would vouchsafe to haue knowne, after a while she greatly mourned inwardly and wept very sore, often putting her hand to her mouth, and shaked her head. This closing of her mouth did greatly affright vs all, because it could not bée that she should naturally bée preserued without the ordinary meanes of food, yet the often experience wée had receiued of Gods mercifull prouidence and care towards the Child, banquished dispaire in vs, yet could it not but greatly grieue euen a mercilesse Tyrants hart (but that the diuell hath no mercy) to sée how the Childe wept and lamented, many times putting her hand to her mouth, and lifting vp her head, as giuing thirsting signes of an hungry desire for meate and drinke.

Towards night when shée should goe to bedde, it pleased God (whose helpe is alwaies at hand, when hope was in greatest distresse) that this meanes was found out, the Child wanted a toth, whereat by the helpe of a quill, shée sucked vp some milke, and by the same meanes receiued her drinke. After this was done, shée greatly reioyced in countenance and outward signes, for shée could not speake, but clapping her handes on her breast and belly (as it may bee thought) for that shée had found out a way to deceiue the malice of her enemy: For the children in all their assaultes, though they tooke the foyle for a time, yet

whenso-

whensoeuer it pleased God a little to ease thē, though but in parte, yet would they greatly triumph in woꝛds if they could speake, as to say, I defie thée thou wicked spiritte, doe what thou canst, thou canst doe me no hurt, thou séest that God is stronger than thou, thou art as good to let me alone, I am glad at my heart that thou canst not ouercome me, with many such like spéeches, though in the very vttering of them, the enemie séemed to checke and to toꝛment them foꝛ it, by strayning their body, and stopping the course of their spéech, and if they could not speake, then would they reioice in countenance, and outward signes, and this kinde of triumphing after the extremitie of the fit be past, is true in them all, from thē eldest to the youngest.

To returne to this chylde, who was caryed to bedde in her Fitte, and in time of her prayers, as shee inwardly mourned them in her minde, was exceedingly toꝛmented, yet would she not cease vntill she had finished them, which rule foꝛ the most part she dilligently kept, foꝛ though her toꝛments increased neuer so much, yet would she not long surcease her prayers, but after some release and quietnes giuen to her of her enemie, she would goe foꝛward vntill she had ended them, which was (no doubt) a good motion of the spiritte and grace of God in the chylde.

The next moꝛning, which was the first of September, shee was taken vp in the same manner that shee lay downe, her teeth still remayning fast set together: yet not so, but that she might receiue milke by a quill as befoꝛe. At dinner time shee had a little strugling with her Fitte, in the end whereof her teeth were lapped one ouer the other, whereas befoꝛe they were set but one against the other.

This was agayne a further degrée of Sathans malitious enmitie, foꝛ now hath he closed her téeth and her mouth so fast together that there is no vse and helpe left foꝛ the quill, this spꝛightfull and mercilesse dealing of Sathan with this Chylde had much moꝛe troubled vs than it did, but that wee were verily perswaded that the malice of the Diuell, and of his wicked Instruments whosoeuer were limited, and his mischieuous purposes towardes the chylde, so farre foꝛth restrayned, as that although he might indanger her health (which many times he did) yet should he neuer actually endammage the same, and much lesse her life, hereof wee haue had very comfoꝛtable experiences. Foꝛ oftentimes (as you

may

may reade here) she hath vented plentifully vnderneath her body, with such lothsome headings & swellings in her belly, as if it would haue broken her backe, or rent her ioynts in sunder, such extreame reeling, and that so thick and often together after a retching manner, filling all the house with her noyse, as that blood hath gushed out of her nose, and some part at her mouth. Yet for all this when the fit was ouerpassed, and she come againe to her selfe, she hath been as one of vs, chearefull in countenance: for if you had asked how she had done, she would haue smiled vpon you: if where she had been, her common answere was, in a sleepe or dreame. If a strong man in his perfect health had struggled in such a storme, and abid such a brunt but one houre, as she did halfe a day together or longer, it had been no wonder if he had been sicke a moneth after: no not if death it selfe had followed presently vpon it: so very strange things suffered this child. But now she is left destitute of all outward meanes to relieue the bodie and to preserue life, because her mouth is closed vp. It was hereupon therefore thought good by diuers to make some trials and experiments (as they had oftentimes done before in such like cases) and chiefly because the child had many times sayd that she should not be well vntill she came to Warboyse, or a mile vpon the way. She therefore accompanied with mistris Pickering her Aunt, was taken vp and carried to horseback, whereat she presently ioyed much: (as if she had perceiued what had been done) for making signes with her hands, she pointed to haue the horse goe on forwards.

Now when she had gone almost a mile onward, though not the direct way to Warboyse, yet the same way she came from thence to Tichmersh groue as it fell out, (for it was vnknowne to any in the companie at ỳ present) she began to cheare vp her selfe very much, and her teeth were forthwith vntied: so that she sayd, I am not yet gone a mile, I shall straight way, and then I shall be well. Presently after this, when she had gone a good mile (as it may be thought) she rubbed her eyes and came to her selfe, and was verie well, as she said, but marueiled exceedingly both how she came thither, and wherefore, at the companie also, and the strangenes of the place. Afterwards alighting from the horse, her legge was restored to her, whereof she had no vse of three weekes before, and desired her Aunt to pray to God to blesse her. Thus she walked on forwards in very good and perfect estate, there was meate brought

for her, wherevpon she tarried some part, and drinke with very great alacritie and chéerefulnes. She toke a prayer booke and read of it a good space, but when she came at this word Sathan, it troubled her sore by shaking and wringing of her shoulders. And to see the malice of the diuell, there was no sooner mention made of her going home, but she was straight way snatched and shaken in her shoulders, armes and bodie, as it would haue shuffled her together: a little after she arose, & in the very turning of her face homewards, her eyes were shut, her legs were taken from her, her teeth fast set in her head, her bellie began to heaue and swell in maner as vsually before when her fit set vpon her. Now so long as she is walking forwards from the groue as it were to Warboyse, so that you speake not of going backe againe, (for the motion onely will cause her to start) she is very well and merrie without any signe of dislike so long as either you are going on or standing still: but so soone as euer you shall turne her about to goe homewards, she presently sinketh downe in your armes as one fallen into a sodaine swoune, strugling betweene life and death, and so continueth striuing a little space vntill she be cleane ouercome, if you in the meane time turne not her face againe, which if you doe, as one awaking from sléepe, she is returned to her former estate. This was proued many times at that present both on foote and on horsebacke in ỹ sight of many, but in the ende (there was no remedie) with great griefe we brought her backe againe the same way we carried her forth: A dead childe to looke vpon for any sense or motion, but in countenance very swéet and amiable, for in all these extremities her complexion (which naturally is faire) was no whit altered. At night it pleased God in despight of mischiefe and malice, that she receiued milke againe by a quill in the same manner as before, yet not without some straining and straightnes, because the place was closer shut then at the first: so that the childe euen then remained as a suckling and sucking child, for she eateth no meate within the house, which is substantiall and solide, but such as passeth through a quill: and if any meate be brought vnto her, she wil make signes to goe abroad, poynting towards that place where she was wont to awake. The next day therefore after dinner, she was carried forth againe, where when she came at the very selfe same place (as one would think within the length of a pole) she awakened, as one cõming out of a lõg sléep, for she would rub her eyes a little before,

and

and gape once or twice stretching forth her armes, & these were common fore-running signes whē she came to her naturall estate, there she did eate her meate very hartely with a good appetite, to the great ioy of her selfe, and of those that were present: but when she was satisfied and about to giue thanks, then Sathan appeared in his likenes, for he laboured to prohibite and hinder that good exercise, by snatching the word as it were out of her mouth, and cutting them in the halfe, by writhing also and twisting the parts and members of the child, in such sort, that she could not bring out one good word, & the better word, the greater was her trouble to vtter it. After this done, it was thought good by some, that a little sticke should be put into her mouth to keepe her teeth open, whensoeuer she was assailed againe, which was tried: so that whē she was turned about (for it would not suffer her so much as to sit quietly with her face homewards) she held the sticke fast in her mouth, which kept her teeth open, but she her selfe was as one in a dead sleepe, giuing small signes of any strength, or life, and so remained vntil she was turned about againe, which was not presently done at ỳ time, because we were willing to see the issue of it. After a little space she strooue with her hands to plucke the sticke out of her mouth, mourning inwardly in her minde with an heauie countenance, as if it had been much griefe and trouble vnto her, but she held it so fast with her teeth, that it could not (as it may bee thought) without great force haue bin pulled out, which appeared by the great dints of her teeth made in the sticke when she was recouered. This we durst not aduenture to doe the second time, fearing other inconueniences, for she said, whē she was come to her selfe, that her mouth was very colde, for that the sticke (as wee thought) kept it open. Now did we tell her of a quill, by which she vsed to receiue her meate at home, for she asked whether she did eate meat any where else but in that place onely: but it seemed very strange vnto her to heare of a quill, and she knewe of no such thing, neither could we bring her to beleeue that she could sucke in a quill, for she asked many questions about it, how and which way she should doe it.

Now in the middest of this great heape, and world of wonders (as we say) appearing in this child, one thing farther by the way is thought good to be remembred, which is a point wherein many mē that haue seene it, hardly beleeue their own eyes. It is a great question amongst vs, and is not yet fully determined, whether the

child in the present time of her agonie, doth sensiblie feele and partake, either in anguish of mind, or griefe of bodie, those pangs and torments which to outward iudgement she doth appeare to doe: it is thought she doth not, and some reasons shall be shewed that may draw vs to beleeue it.

First, the testimonie of the Child her selfe (when she is recouered) might bee sufficient to perswade the matter, if there were nothing els, for why should not she rather by shewing her grief cause vs to mone and pitie her (as al doth that see her) if she felt any cause why: The smiling and chearefull countenance which she hath alwaies vsed, to those that aske her how she doth presently vpon her fit ended, may something also strengthen this poynt. The earnest desire she hath alwaies had in time of her greatest extremities, to finish her praiers, or any such good exercise, although her torments (as they appeared to be) were the more encreased thereby, as vsually they were. Her exceeding hartie and immodest laughter in some of her fits, and such indeed as the childs modestie would haue blushed at, and could not haue permitted, if she had been well. To these may be added, that the not feeling of her blow and hurt, nor knowing any thing of it, vntill she was recouered, which she receiued in her forehead by the latch of a dore, as you may reade before, with many such like arguments which might be alleadged. And not to leaue out that which is of most force of all: her open contempt at all times, and in all places, both in speech and gesture, immediatly before her fit take her: her boldnesse and good courage at all times to aduenture vpon it, though she knewe assuredly it would assault her: as namely, in the beginning of her visitation, at the naming onely of God, or Iesus, or any good word, which if you had seene, you could not haue sufficiently admired: also, at the giuing of thankes after or before meate receiued, at the entring vpon any good exercise, as reading or praying, she neuer once vseth to giue any signe of feare or discouragement, in any respect. And at the naming of the diuell, mother Samuel, or any such blacke word, that keepeth the colour, as sathan, or Cicely, (which is another womans name, that is suspected to be confederate in this wicked practise) she neuer feared nor would stick at them, but alwaies shewed her selfe readie (though she very well knewe that she should haue her fit for it) to cast her selfe vpon the present danger. And now here in this place which is the open fields, she is willing & forward at

euerie

quest in motion to turne her selfe about, and to set her face homewards againe. And surely it may be thought, there are very few (though hired with great gifts) if they had but once seene the child in that pitifull plight and wofull case, wherein she hath been a hundred times, that would voluntarily cast themselues into so great an extremitie and hazard of life, yea, though they had receiued sufficient securitie and assured warrantise both of life and health afterwards, and withall for the present time also to be without naturall sense and feeling of griefe, and vexation of bodie or minde, so full of dread and terror was this fearefull spectacle to the standers by many times. And yet hath this little child (such is the preheminence of Gods spirit ouer all spirits of wickednesse) seene many of her sisters and some others, diuers times in the like case, or worse (if it might be) handled and tormented.

Yet it cannot be denyed, but she hath been many times very sad in countenance, and shed some selue teares a little before her fit hath come vpon her: yet without any complaining at all, and of late times also: so that it may be rather imputed (as it hath been thought) to some other causes, as in part to the conceit and imagination of her cruell dealing, when she is in her fits, as it hath been reported in her hearing. Also, for that she is depriued (for the time) of the companie and fellowship of her cozens, (other children in the house, whom she dearely loueth) to that great sorrow and anguish of minde, which the sight of her lamentable case enforceth vpon others: or if there be some other secret cause vnknowne vnto vs, for the child her selfe neuer complaineth. And being demanded the cause of her teares, she will answere, sometimes that her head aketh, or that she hath some payne in one part of her bodie or other: but it would be too large a thing to recite one of an hundred almost, of those memorable accidents which haue befallen to this child, since the time that it first pleased God to permit her to be visited in this order.

To omit therefore what might be further said, she was carried out of the fields backe againe into the grone, being more like the image and shadowe of a childe, then so indeede, continuing in the same estate and order at home as abroad, not eating any thing but such melting meates as would passe through a quill, onely sometimes she would take some buttered meats very small minced, and rub it against the outside of her teeth, and so sucke in the iuyce and

moysture of it. From this day, which was the 3. of September, vntill Tuesday, which was the 8. of the same moneth, was she caried abroad into the field euery day to ease her meate, where shee fayled not to awake at the very selfe same place, & not before. And to perswade you that she would come to her selfe in no other place but in that onely, shee hath been caried a more direct way to Warboyse, two or three miles vpon the way, but to small purpose, for she continued in the same estate. Vpon this tuesday was shee caried from Tichemersh groue to Warboyse to her fathers house, where by the way in ỹ fields, at a hedge corner, which was the ordinary place, she made the common signes, & presently awaked continuing al ỹ way in very healthful sorte & merry, only her greatest care and griefe was, that she was departed frõ Tichemersh groue.

Now that you haue heard the particular manner of the fits of this childe, Mistresse Elizabeth, you may imagine and aime at the maner of handling of the rest of her sisters, during this time, remaining in other places, who were no lesse strangly dealt withall, than she was, of whom if it should particularly be obserued, as is done in her, as strange wonders (if any thing hetherto seeme strange) befell euery one of them seuerally, as are these which you haue already heard. And by some of them were shewed matters of farre greater admiration, but this may suffice, least in entring into the rest, no end could be found, so infinite is the matter.

It pleased the prouidence of God, that not long after master Gilbert Pickering had carried away this child to his house, about a moneth or such a thing, the Lady Cromwel, wife of Sir Henry Cromwel Knight, (who then lay in Ramsey, a towne two miles distant from Warboyse) came to Master Throckmortons house, together with her daughter in law, Mistresse Cromwel to visit these children & to comfort their parents, with whome she was well acquainted: she had not long staid in the house, but the children which were there, fel al into their fits, and were so grieuously tormented for the time, that it pitied that good Ladies heart to see them, in so much, that she could not abstaine from teares, whereupon she caused the old woman mother Samuel to be sent for, who durst not deny to come, because her husband was tenant to sir Henry Cromwel, who after shee was come, the children grew to be worse than they were before, which caused the greater sorrowe. Then the Lady Cromwel toke mother Samuel aside, and charged her deepely with

this

this Mother Cake, vsing also some hard speeches to her, but she stiffly denyed them all, saying, that Master Throckmorton & his wife did her great wrong, so to blame her without cause. The Lady answered her, that neither M. Throckmorton nor his wife accused her, but the children themselues in their fits did it, or rather the spirite by them. One of them, mistris Ioane by name, being then in her fit, hearing the old woman thus cleering her selfe, (for she heard not the Ladie nor any other) sayd, that it was she that caused all this, and something there is, saith she, that doth now tell me so: asking if no body heard it but she, affirming that it squealed very lowde in her eares, and marueiled that no body could heare it, wishing the old woman to listen to it. But mother Samuel still continued her denyall. Then the Ladie Cromwell would haue taken her vp into a chamber, to haue examined her more narrowly, (Master Doctor Hall, a Doctor of Diuinitie being present) but she by no meanes would goe with them, but rather fained many excuses to go home. In the ende, when the Ladie perceiued, that by no good speeches neither she, nor any other could preuaile with her, & that faine she would haue bin gone, she sodainly pulled off her kercher, & taking a paire of sheares, clipped off a locke of her haire, & gaue it priuily to mistris Throckmorton, mother of the children, together with her haire lace, willing her to burne them. Mother Samuel perceiuing her selfe thus dealt withall, spake to the Lady thus. Madame why doe you vse me thus? I neuer did you any harme as yet. These words were afterwards remembred, and were not at that present time taken hold of by any. Toward night the Ladie departing, left the children much what as she found them.

The same night, after the Ladie Cromwell departed from Warboyse, she suffered many things in her dreams concerning mother Samuel, and was very strangely tormented in her sleep by a cat (as she imagined) which mother Samuel had sent vnto her, which cat offered to plucke off all the skin and flesh from her armes & bodie, but such was the struggling and striuing of the Ladie that night in her bed, and mournfull noyse which she made, speaking to the cat and to mother Samuel, that she wakened her bedfellow, who was Mistris Cromwell, before named, wife to the worshipfull Master Oliuer Cromwell, sonne and heire to sir Henrie Cromwell, who that night was from home. Mistresse Cromwell being awakened, and perceiuing the Ladie thus disquieted, awakened her also, who

greatly

greatly thanked her for it, declaring how she had been troubled in her dreame with mother Samuel and her Cat, with many other circumstances, which she did very well remember, neither could she take any quiet rest or sleepe all that night after for feare thereof.

Not long after the Ladie fell very strangely sick, and so continued vnto her dying day, which was some yeare and quarter after her being at Warboyse. The manner of her fits was much like to the children, saue onely that she had alwaies her perfect senses: for sometime her paine would be in one arme, sometime in the other: now in the one leg, by and by in the other, many times in her head: yea, sometimes it would take her but in one seuerall finger or toe, & alwaies shake the grieued part, as if it had been the palsie. And that saying of mother Samuel (which she vsed to her at Warboyse) which was, Madame, I neuer hurt you as yet) would neuer out of her mind. And thus leauing this good Ladie in heauen with God, we will returne to these children.

About Christmas after, Anno 1590. (for there was nothing noted all that time, although there befell 100. wonders) master Henrie Pickering, vncle to these children, being then a Scholler of Cambridge, went to master Throckmortons house, and continued there some three or foure daies, was desirous to speake with mother Samuel, and taking a conuenient time, he requested two other Schollers of his acquaintance (then being in the towne) to goe with him, to whom they graunted, and presently went without the knowledge of any in master Throckmortons house. As they were going, she came out of her owne house, and crossed the streete before them: when they saw her, they determined rather to follow her whither she went, then stay her returne, because her husband was a froward man, and would not suffer her to talke with any, if he might know it. She went to a neighbours house for some Barme, & carried a little wooden tankard in her hand, and a little Barley in her lap, to exchange for the Barme: when she came to the house whither she purposed to go, the Schollers followed her immediatly, and heard her tell her errand to the wife of the house, who had not that for which she came. Being readie to depart, the Schollers desired to speake with her, but she seemed loth to stay, yet they entring into questions with her, staied her a little. But she was very lowde in her answers, and impatient, not suffering any to speake but her selfe: one of them desired her to keepe the womans vertue, and be

more

more silent: she answered, that she was borne in a mill, begot in a kill, she must haue her will, she could speake no softlier. The greatest part of her speech was raying words against M. Throckmorton and his children, saying, that he did misuse her, in suffering his children so to play the wantons in accusing of her, & bringing her name into question, often repeating, that the childrens fits was nothing but wantonnesse in them, & if they were her children, she would not suffer them so to escape without punishment one after the other. The schollers enquired about her seruice of God, & profession of her faith. But all that they could get of her, was, that her God would deliuer her, her God would defend her, and reuenge her of her enemie, alway using the phrase of my God will do this and that for me: which being noted by one of them, he asked her if she had a God alone, or if she did not serue ỹ same God that others did? She answered, yes ỹ she did: yet much adoe they had to bring her from the phrase of my God, to say the God of heauen & earth. In ỹ end she would néeds be gone, saying, that her husband would beate her for her long tarrying. Then the vncle of those children being somewhat more moued then the rest, at the parting sayd, that if she were the woman that had wrought this wickednes vpō these children, the vengeance of God would surely wait vpon her vnto death, and howsoeuer she might deceiue her selfe & the world for a time, yet there was no way to preuent the iudgements of God, but by her confession and repentance: which if she did not in time, he hoped one day to sée her burned at a stake, and he himselfe would bring fire and wood, & the children should blow the coales. Her answere to him was this, (for they were then in the stréete hard by a pond) I had rather (said she) sée you doused ouer head and eares in this pond, and so they parted.

Now to come to the poynt, the eldest of Master Throckmortons daughters was then in her fit, sitting at home in a Parlor, her father and grandmother, with some other of her sisters in their fits being present with her: On the sodaine (sayd she) now is my vncle (naming him) and the two other (whom she also named) going to mother Samuel, we shall heare some newes by and by. Presently she said, loke where mother Samuel goeth trotting in the stréetes before them, with a wooden tankard in her hand, and her apron is tucked vp before her, I beléeue saith she, there is somewhat in it. She is gone into such a mans house that kéepeth an Alehouse, the

mans name she could not hit of, but described him by his red head. Harke, sayd she to her sisters, mother Samuel is very loude, and my vncle bids her speake softly, but she sayth she cannot, repeating to her father and the rest the same words, (viz. that she was borne in a mill, &c.) after the same manner that mother Samuel spake them to her vncle and the other Schollers. To be short, she declared particularly euery word that passed betwéene mother Samuel and those Schollers at that time. And at the parting she sayd, there mother Samuel my vncle did touch you I thinke, repeating againe the very same words that her vncle had done, wishing that that day were once come, for I my selfe (sayd she) would blowe the coales: but he had bén as good he had sayd nothing to her (said she) for she wished him ouer head and eares in the pond for it. Master Throckmorton standing by and hearing all this, after that the child had said, that now mother Samuel and the Schollers were parted, enquired for his brother the childs vncle, asking if any knew whether he was gone. Answer was made, that he came not home from the Church since euening Prayer, (for it was on a Saterday) but where he was no body knew. It may be (sayd Master Throckmorton) that he is with mother Samuel, and went immediatly out of his owne house, to sée if he could perceiue where they were. As he went he met them in the Church-yard comming from mother Samuels. Where haue you bén? (said he) They tolde him. I could haue told you so much my selfe, sayd he: and repeated to them the whole matter, as his daughter before had shewed. Whē they were come into the parlour where she was, there was also another of her sisters in her fit sitting by: and this her other sister could heare her sayd vncle speake vnto her, and no body els, & so by her mouth (for they could for the most part heare one another in their fits) he enquired of her sister all those matters ouer againe, which she did in his owne hearing repeate: but sayd she, the winde was so great that I had much adoe to heare them, whereas indéede there was then no wind stirring. After this the spirit (or the thing as the children called it) would many times appeare vnto them in their fits in some kind of shape or other, but most commonly in the likenes of a dun chicken, and would talke familiarly with them, saying, that they came from mother Samuel, (whom they called their dame) and were sent by her to the children to torment and vexe them in that sort. It would declare to the children many things

concer-

cõcerning mother Samuel, insomuch that she could do nothing almost at home for a great time, but the spirit would disclose it, if it were required by the children in their fits: viz. as to knowe what she was then in doing at home, or in what place of her house, or els where she was, the spirit would tell: which (by a messenger presently sent of purpose) was proued true.

Now did the spirits manifestly begin to accuse mother Samuel to the children in their fits: saying, it was she that had bewitched them, and all those seruants which were bewitched in the house, & told them, that whensoeuer they were in their fits, and were either caried to Mother Samuels house, or she caused to come to thē, they should be presently well. This many times was proued true, & neuer failed once: so that if the children at any time being in their fits, had bēen carried to mother Samuels house, (for it was a very hard thing to get mother Samuel to M. Throckmortons house) although they were in such a case, as that a strōg man could scarcely hold them, (they would so struggle, start, & sprawle in his armes) yet if they came but once to ỹ threshold of Mo. Samuels doore, they would wipe their eyes, & say, I am well, why do you carry me, set me down, as though some shame had bēen offered them, in that they were carried in the strētes, not knowing any thing in what case they had bēen. While they continued in the house they were very well, but determining once to come away, & offering to come out of ỹ doore, they fell presently down on the ground, & were brought from thence in the same case that they were caried thither: contrariwise, whensoeuer Mo. Samuel came to M. Throckmortons house, in what kind of extremity soeuer these children were in, (as it was most wonderfull strange to sēe them many times) so sone as euer she had set foote into the Parlour or Hall where they were, they would all presently start vp vpon their fēet, and be as well as any in the house, and so continue while she was present: but when she offered to depart, they would all sinke downe as a stone vpon the ground: if she turned but her face againe and came towards them, they would be well as before, which was tryed xx. times in one houre. And when she departed from the house, she left them in the same estate wherein she found them, so long as their fit continued vpon them. After this, Master Throckmorton thought good to disperse his children, and sent them abroad, some to one friends house, some to another for a time, to sēe how they should be dealt withall,

yet alwaies kéeping some one of them at home with him.

If it should be declared how these were all seuerally handled for the time they were abroad, it would aske a long discourse, & longer indéed then is thought méete at this time, although very strange things, and such as may séeme worth the noting befell euery one of them, as this for one: They could tel being in their fits, in what case or estate their other sisters were at that instant, being separated some of them eight, ten, or twelue miles asunder, and haue said, now is my sister (naming her and the place where she was in her fit) very sore handled, as she her selfe also was at that instant. It was proued to bee most true by the iust computation of times, with many such like things.

But this may suffice concerning them being abroade, that they were neuer altogether cléere and frée from their fit, although it be true that some of them, whether at home or abroade, had not their fits aboue once in a moneth, sometimes once in halfe a yeere, and one of them was cléere a whole yeare together. And this also is verified and true in some other of these fiue sisters, that they were neuer cléere nor frée from some kind of fit or other, three weekes together: I thinke scarcely three daies since the first day it tooke them, except now since these last Assises in Lent, whereat these Witches were executed.

To passe ouer all that which might be spoken of them for a yéere and almost an halfe, we will come néerer vnto these latter times, wherein the Spirits, whether moued by their owne malice, (as it passeth the reach of man to sound the depth of the diuels malice to mankind) or moued by the malice of the senders and setters on, or both, it is not knowne: or whether for the conclusion and consummation of their parents patience in this poynt: it pleased the wisedome of God, who in his prouidence had determined their ende, to graunt them therefore more libertie for the time, to exercise their malice against these children, we leaue it to God, but trueth it is, that they were more strangely vexed, and more grieuously tormẽted in their body now of late, and take them generally altogether, then at any time almost from the beginning. And to begin this time at Michaelmasse last past, or thereabouts, foure of these children were altogether at Warboyse in their fathers house, and the fift, which was the eldest of them, was at her vncles house, Gilbert Pickering Esquire, dwelling at Tichmersh groue.

About

About this time, which was Michaelmas 1592. one of these four children, the youngest saue one, neere vpon the age of fourteene yeares, was in a very strange kind of fit, the maner whereof was as followeth: Euery day for the space of three weekes or more, she had a senceles fitte, some one time of the day or other, and sometimes many fittes in one day. In which fit she could neither heare, see, nor speake to any body, besides her inwarde griefes, that shee would heaue and start, and swel vp her body, which was very troublesome to her for the time. When she was out of these fittes, she would goe vp and downe the house very well, she would eate and drinke, and sometimes be very pleasant in outward gesture with her sisters, she would doe any thing, which by any signe she did vnderstand should bee done, shee would make a reuerence as shee passed by, vnto those where she saw it was due: insomuch that any man ignorant of her estate, could perceiue nothing to be amisse in her, yet would she neuer speake to any in particular, neither could she heare any that spake to her during that time: except sometimes she would prattle a little to an infant, which was newly borne in the house, wherin she toke great delight.

It pleased God, about the beginning of these kinde of fits in her, an Aunt of hers being then in the house, was deliuered of a childe, vpon which occasion many of her Vncles & Aunts, and other kindred and friends, resorted to the house, and some of them stayed a weeke or ten dayes together; all which time the childe was in these kinde of fits: and as it happened, mother Samuel amongst the rest came to the house, and was brought vp into the gentlewomans chamber, where commonly the greatest company was: so sone as she came in, this childe (in question) being there, espied her, & presently spake to her, bidding her welcome, and saying that she was a great stranger there, she fetched her vp both meat & drinke, and would doe any thing readily that she willed her to do. In the ende, she asked mother Samuel, whose that little childe was which shee herselfe had in her armes: the olde woman tolde her, and likewise the name of it, which thing she also demaunded: the childe marueiled, saying: Is my Aunt brought to bed? I am very glad of it: why then (saith she) such and such of mine Vncles and Aunts promised to be here, who were then indeede in the house, and some of them in that company. Then mother Samuel tolde her, that such and such whom she asked for, were in presence. The child said, that she saw

no body but her and that little childe, which shée had in her armes, although she looked full in their faces. Many such like straunge things then fell out, which is too long to speake of. When the olde Woman departed, the child lost the vse of al her sences, and continued in the same case, wherin she was when the old Woman came into the house.

When she had continued thus thrée wéekes or more, shée came one day out of her Aunts chamber into the hall, and shée had not long stayed there, but she fell into a most troublesome fitte for the time, but it continued not long: presently she spake and sayd, I am glad, and very glad, repeating it often, on the sodaine shée wiped her eyes, and came out of her fit. Her mother being in the Hall, she asked her blessing, and inquired of many things, and amongst others, asked how her Aunt did, from whome a little before shée came, and knew of nothing that was done, neither that any company had béen there for the space of thrée wéekes before.

It followeth to speake of the rest of her sisters together with her selfe, who all of them, as the yeare grew towards an ende, so their griefe and extremitie of troubles increased: insomuch, that euery day brought with it increase of payne, and strangenes in their manner of fittes.

Towards Hollantide, the spirits grew very familiar with the children, and commonly towards the ende of their fits, when the greatest trouble was ouer, would talke with them halfe an houre together, and sometimes longer: The greatest matter of their talk, was about their manner of fits which they should haue, & concerning mother Samuel, whose pleasure it was that they shuld be so vsed, but the spirits sayd many times, that they would bring her to shame for it in the end. If in this time (being in their fits) they had enquired of their spirit, when they shuld come out of that fit wherin then they were, and when they should haue another, it would haue told them, and not missed any whit at all.

If they had asked how many fits they should haue the next day following, and the third day, or any day that wéeke, and how many fits they should haue in one day, and what manner of fits they should be, whether more grieuous or lesse, howe long euery fitte should continue, and in what part of the day they should beginne, and when they should end, it hath tolde them, and not failed in any one poynt, for it hath bæn presently set downe in writing, as the

childzen

thildren haue ſpoken it, (for it was not poſſible to remember the times for them all) and proued wholly true.

The times and ſignes which the ſpirits did appoynt vnto them, for the beginning or ending of their fits, were vſually theſe. In the morning ſo ſoone as they did offer to ariſe out of their beds: ſo ſoone as they were vp or ready: ſo ſoone as they aſked their Father bleſſing, or their Mother, or their Grandmother: ſo ſoone as they toke a booke in hand to pray, or when they had ended their prayers: ſo ſoone as they went to breakefaſt, ſo ſoone as Dinner was ſet vpon the boorde: or ſo ſoone as they did offer to ſay grace either before or after dinner: ſo ſoone as they themſelues were ſet downe to dinner, or at the firſt bit of meat they put in their mouthes: or ſo ſoone as dinner was ended, or they had put vp their knife after dinner: the ſame circumſtances at Supper alſo obſerued. Or if it had been vpon the Sabbaoth day, or any day wherein the belles ought to bee rung: ſo ſoone as the firſt, ſecond, or third peale ringeth, or haue done ringing, with many ſuch like ſignes (which would bee too long to ſpeake of) appoynted by the ſpirit, for the children to fall in or out of their fittes, which they duely obſerued, and fayled not a minute, as may be thought.

After they had continued in this caſe about a moneth together or ſuch a thing, whether the ſpirits were weary, (as they oftentimes ſayd vnto the children in their fits, that they now wared weary of their Dame mother Samuel) or whether that through the power of Gods goodneſſe, and ſpeciall protection of the children, the ſpirits perceiued, that their owne malice, and the malice of their Dame to the children was reſtrained and kept vnder in ſuch ſorte, that they could not kill the children as they deſired: for we may not thinke, that it agréeth with the nature of the euill ſpirite to ſport and play with man, as theſe ſpirites oftentimes did with theſe little children: they ſayd to them, that nowe ere long, they would bring their Dame either to her confeſſion or confuſion. And this was the greateſt ſtaye of comfort and proppe of patience which the Parents of theſe children and friends alwayes had: namely, that when theſe children were in their greateſt torment and miſeries as might be deuiſed, in ſuch ſorte as that it made the heart of the beholders many times to melt in their bodies, being without all hope euer in this world to ſée them aliue againe, yet whenſoeuer it pleaſed God to deliuer them out of their fittes, they

would

would wipe their eyes and be presently well, as if it had neuer béen they, not knowing any thing that had befallen them, so that now it should séeme that God himselfe would take the matter into his owne handes, and hauing in his counsell determined an ende thereof, so he would also appoynt the meanes to bring it to passe, which was euen by the spirits themselues, the instruments of this wickednes. For now they began to accuse mother Samuel openly to her face, and say that they shall not be well in any place, except they continue in her house, or she be brought to continue with thē: and besides that, they shal haue more troublesome fittes then euer they had, except one of these two be brought to passe.

Master Throckmorton still thinking that the spirits might lye, was contented to trie the vttermost for three weekes together, all which time his children had very many most grieuous and troublesome fits: insomuch that when night came, there was neuer a one of them able to goe to their beds alone, their legs were so full of payne and sores, besides many other griefes they had in their body (being out of their fits) which was not vsuall with them: and one of them also for all that time of three weekes, neuer had vse of her legs, except it were an houre or two in one day, while mother Samuel was in the house, and then she was able to goe, and was very well, as the rest also were: otherwise her legs were thrust vp to her body as if they had béene tyed with stringes, and where you set her downe, there you should finde her, except she crept away.

Master Throckmorton, perceiuing that by no meanes he could get leaue of olde Iohn Samuel, for the olde Woman to come to his house, although he offered very largely for it, which was, to allow him if it came to ten pounds in the yeare for the bourde and wages of the best seruant in Huntington shire to do his busines (if hée would) in her stead, besides his promise and bond, if hee would require it, for the well vsing of his wife while she was with him, hée could finde no other remedy for the health of his children, but to cary them thither: which he did, who so soone as they came into the house were all presently well: which he perceiuing, sayd, that his children should dwel there, and out of the house they should not go, he would prouide for their necessities. The man séeing this, that there was no striuing with the company, quenched out the fire, and it was a colde season, saying that he would starue them, besides very many euill words, which came from him and his daughter at

that

that time. All that day they continued there very wel, and did both eate and drinke, and read in their booke, and were very merie. At night whē the man (Iohn Samuel) perceiued that they should lodge there, he thought that they would be very troublesome to him, and therefore gaue his faithfull promise, that his Wife should come to Maister Throckmortons house the next morning, & continue with him: whereupon Maister Throckmorton toke home his children, and they were in their fits so sone as they came out of his doores, and so continued all that night. The next morning M. Throckmorton went for the old woman, but she was gone no body knew whither, so he sent againe for his children, who so sone as they came into the house, were well. Towards night, came in the old woman, who sayd that she had bēn 2. or 3. miles out of the town, and her husband knewe of her going, because shē should not come to Maister Throckmortons, which when he vnderstood that she had spoken, (for she spake it priuatly, desiring them to whom she spake it, not to tell her husband) he vtterly forswore the matter, & presently fell vpon his wife, and beat her very sore with a cudgel, many being present, before she could be rescued by them. In the ende, when the man perceiued maister Throckmorton still to continue in the same mind aforesayd, he was contented to let his wife go home with them that night, who went all to M. Throckmortons house very well together, & so continued the space of nine or ten dayes following, without any manner of sorenes, lamenes, or any maner grudging of fits, and in better case then they had bēn (as it was well knowne) all of them together, for the space of thrē whole yēres before. This made the parents right glad, and to vse the woman as a welcome guest. At the ten dayes ende, the olde woman intreated Mistris Throckmorton, for her husband was gone forth that morning, that she might go home, making her excuse to fetch something that she wanted. Mistris Throckmorton was very loth to graunt it, promising that she her selfe would rather fetch what she would haue, then that she should go out of her house: yet the old woman saying that no body could come by that thing that she would haue but her selfe (which happily was true) and promising her present returne, she yēlded to her request.

Sone after she was gone, some of the children fell into their fits againe as before times, and the spirit then talking with them, sayd: that now mother Samuel was fēding of her spirits, and ma-

king a new league and composition with them, which was, that although now she came agayne to the house, they shalbe no whit the better, but rather the worse for her being there, because she would not remayne any longer there: which thing seemed to be true that the childe spake, for so soone as she came againe (which was not before she was sent for foure or fiue houres after she went) the children which were in their fits at their comming, so continued, and they that were not, after her comming fel into their fits, al of them crying out, that now mother Samuel had made a new composition with her spirits, and now they should be no whit better for her presence, but rather the worse.

Master Throckmorton when he came home, and perceiuing the case otherwise with his children then he left it, and the cause why, could not be but heartily sory: yet referred all to the good pleasure of God, and would not suffer the old woman to depart his house, for this cause chiefly, because his children being in their fits, could neither heare, see, nor speake to any body, but to her, and some of the children could take nothing, but that which shee either gaue them, or touched with her hands.

Mother Samuel remayning thus with the children, she could not be in any place of the house alone, neither doing any thing about the house, but the children in their fits would reueale it, specially when she was seeding of her spirits, for then the children would say: Now is mother Samuel in such a place of the house seeding of her spirits: when they went and looked, there they should finde her, but whether doing any such thing or not, God and her conscience are the best witnesses.

Many times also as she sate talking with these children, being in their fits by the fire side, they would say vnto her: Looke you here mother Samuel, doe you not see this thing that sitteth here by vs: she would answere no, not she: why they would say agayne, I maruaile that you doe not see it, looke how it leapeth, skippeth, and playeth vp and downe: pointing at it with their fingers here and there as it leaped. Sometimes also they would say, Harke Mother Samuel, doe you not heare it: harke how loude it is, I maruaile you do not heare it, nay you cannot but heare it. She would denie it, and bid them aske their father, or some other whome shee saw to stand by, whether they heard it or not. The children would answere, that they saw no body although they stood hard by them.

Then

Then would they tell mother Samuel, that it telleth them, that she both heareth it, seeth it, and sent it. The father of these children, M. Throckmorton, to make a kinde of experience of this matter, one night willed mother Samuel, (as he might haue done to any other then being present) to name howe many fits those three children that then were in their fits, should haue the next day following, and what kinde of fits they should haue, when they should begin, and how long they should continue. Mother Samuel was very loth to be brought vnto it: yet in the end, their father saying ý she should doe it. She sayd, one of them shal haue three fits, naming the childe, such and such for the maner, namely, easie fits, appoynting the time for their beginnings and endings: the other shall haue two in like sorte, the time appoynted by her: and the third shall haue none, but be well all the day. All which fits, proued very iustly in euery one of them the next day, as she had spoken.

At another time not long after, Mother Samuel sitting by these children being in their fits as before, Ma. Throckmorton their father, and some other also being with him, demaunded of mother Samuell, saying, that he had heard, that those that were acquainted with these spirits (as the children say that she is) and had retayned them in their seruice, to doe for them as they commaunded, that they did feede them, and reward them with some thing from them, but most vsually with their blood, and that euery day: now therefore (sayd he) make open confession and shame the Diuel in telling the trueth, whether you doe any such thing or not.

She most vehemently denyed it, with many bitter words and curses vpon her selfe, desiring the Lord to shew some present token from heauen vpon her, that al the world might know that she was such a kind of woman, as they suspected her for, if she vsed any such thing, or rewarded them any such way, or had any spirits, or knew what they were.

Presently after, Master Throckmorton, and master Henry Pickering, vncle to the sayd children, who was then with him, hearing her vse such protestations, being half terrified in their hearts, (because they alway vehemētly suspected her guiltines) that she shuld thus violently with her own hands (as it were) pull downe the iudgements of God vpon her head, went out of the doores, and before they were gone ten paces from the house, another young gentleman, Master Iohn Lawrence (cosin to the sayd children) that

ſtayed behinde in the Parlour, came to Maſter Throckmorton, and M. Henry Pickering, and ſayd that mother Samuels chin did bléede: whereupon they returned into the Parlour again where ſhe was, and ſaw the napkin wherewith ſhe had wiped away the blood from her chin, to be bloody to the quantitie of eight or ten drops. Then M. Throckmorton, with the reſt, loked vpon her chin, and there was no more to be ſéene then vpon the backe of a cleane hand, onely there appeared ſome few little red ſpots, as if they had béen fleabitings. Then M. Throckmorton demaunded of her, whether her chin vſed to bléede ſo or not? She ſayd, that it did very often. He aſked her, who could witneſſe it but her ſelfe? She ſayd, no bodie, for it did alwaies bléede when ſhe was alone, and ſhe neuer told any body of it.

This her bléeding at the chin, ſhe did confeſſe to the ſayd Maſter Henry Pickering, after ſhe was condemned, that the ſpirits were then ſucking at her chinne, when ſhe made that proteſtation to M. Throckmorton and him, and that whē ſhe wiped them off with her hand, her chin bled, which ſomtimes it had done before, after their ſucking, but not often, and neuer ſo much as then, nay, ſcarcely the quantitie of one drop at any time before.

And this by the way, as a generall note throughout the Booke, where there is one of theſe ſtrange things ſet downe, (if they bée ſo accounted as ſtraunge) there are tenne omitted, which may as well be put in, and (in the iudgement of them that heare of them) are no leſſe ſtraunge then theſe: And for that which this Booke doth containe, it is ſet downe vpon the ſodaine, and as it commeth to preſent memorie, at the requeſt of diuers Right Worſhipfull, and eſpecially for the motion ſake of the Right Worſhipfull, Maſter Iuſtice Fenner, one of the Patrons hereof. And for the truth of the moſt of theſe things herein contained, they were giuen in euidence, and readie to be giuen againſt the parties accuſed, if either néede ſhould haue required or time ſerued, vpon the oath of diuers Gentlemen on the Aſſiſes day at Huntington, before the ſayde partyes: And for the reſt which were not then alleadged, if any ſhall make doubt thereof, there are diuers Gentlemen of honeſt report, readie to confirme the ſame vpon their oathes, if néede ſhould ſo require, that were preſent, ſome at one time, and ſome at another, at all theſe ſeuerall Tragedies, (as they may bée tearmed.)

At another time, some after, the spirites tolde the children (then being in their fits, the olde woman also standing by them) that if their Father Walter Throckmorton, would then presently goe to Iohn Samuels house, his daughter Agnes Samuel, who then dwelt at home with her father, & is not yet brought into question about any of these matters, would hide her selfe, and not be seene of him. Walter Throckmorton hearing them, said, that he would goe presently and make triall thereof. When hée came to the house, Agnes Samuel, whether perceiuing Walter Throckmorton, or any of his company, or what so euer else it was, it is not knowne, but she went vp into the Chamber (there being but one in the house) the stayres whereof stoode in the same Parlor belowe, where her father was, and the doore thereof was a trap doore: where vpon shée set sackes of corne, and tubbes with some such like things to kéepe it downe. Walter Throckmorton hearing a noyse in the house, thought there was some such matter in hand, and continued still knocking at the doore. Presently Iohn Samuel asked who was there, and what hée would, with some such like questions, and in the end, knowing what he was, said, he should not come in. Then Walter Throckmorton went on the other side of the house, and finding the back doore open, went in, and when hée came into the Parlor where the man was in his bed, being about eight of the clocke or something before, hée asked for Agnes Samuel his daughter, and where shée was: Iohn Samuel had not his oathe to séeke, but presently swore as God iudge his soule (which was his common oath, and vsed also diuers times before the Benche at his arraignement, yea, and vntill the very time of his execution) that hée knew not where she was.

Walter Throckmorton asked when he saw her? Hée answered, that since the euening she was in the house, but where now she is, he could not tel. He asked if she was not in the chamber ouer them, hée swore hée could not tell, which thing hée could not (indéed) but know, for it was a very low chamber, and she could not sturre her foote in it, but he must néedes heare her: besides, her going vp into it, for the stayres stoode hard at his beddes féete, and the noyse also shée made in the hearing of Walter Throckmorton and the rest comming into the house. Walter Throckmorton vercly suspecting that she was there, called to her thrée or foure times, and willed her to answer if shée were there, for it was all that he desired,

to know where she was, but she would not answer: then Master Throckmorton toke the candle, and said hée would goe vp and sée, but when he came to the top of the staires, the trap doore was so fast, that he could not sturre it, which he perceiuing, said, that surely he would breake open the doore, or breake vp the plancher of the chamber, for he would goe into it before he went out of the house, and willed one of the company to fetch him a barre of yron or some such like thing, for he would doe it indéede.

The Maide hearing Master Throckmorton thus resolute, answered that shée was there: then Master Throckmorton willed her to come downe: which she did, removing those things that before shée had set vpon the doore, so hée departed home to his house, challenging the man for his naughty lie, which yet he stifflie stode in. But to let an hundred of these things passe with their fellowes, and to come néerer the olde womans confession, and the maner of it: you shall vnderstand, that mother Samuel grew now to be meruailous weary of Master Throckmortons house, both because shée could do nothing in the house, but the children in their fits would reueale it, and especially, because the children in their fits likewise had told her twenty times to her face, that she should confesse this matter before the Tuesday after Twelfe day, and that the spirits had told them, that they would enforce her to confesse it in despight of her, and shée had often experience, that whatsoeuer the spirits foretold, proued most true.

Now this Tuesday which the children so often named, was not then thought vpon (of any that heard it) to be the Sessions day at Huntington, as it is generally in most places of England, no not within a wéeke or more after the children had spoken of it: yet were they often whispering with themselues (alwaies in their fits as you must vnderstand it) about that Tuesday, wishing oftentimes, that it were once come, for that was some happy day (they would say) belike for them, for after that day the spirites had tolde them, they should neuer haue moe fittes: so that all their ioye in their fits was for that day, yet they would say to themselues, that the spirits doth tell them, that it may happily be before that Tuesday: but on the Tuesday at the farthest, shée must confesse it, and they must be well, but if she would confesse it before, they should be well presently whensoeuer she did confesse it.

For this cause the children in their fits continually would exhort

hort her to confesse it, that they might bee well, which yet shee alwaies would denie to do, saying: that shee would not confesse that which shee neuer did know of, nor consented vnto: the children would answere, that they would not wish her to accuse herselfe for any thing, and therefore willed her to looke to that in any respect, yet they said, that they enforced no more vpon her, then what the spirits had told them. Yet to speake the trueth of these children and no more, if any thing herein written of them be strange, this for strangenesse goeth beyond all other, and for truth equall to the rest: such were the heauenly and diuine speeches of these children in their fits, to this olde woman, some at one time, some at another, concerning her confession of this fact, as that if a man had heard it, he would not haue thought himself better edified at ten Sermons.

The matter of their speech was this, concerning chiefely the ioyes of heauen which shee should lose: and the torments of hell which she should endure, if she being guilty would not yet confes, and the eschewing of the one & enioying of the other, if she would confesse and be sory for that she had done: they rehearsed likewise vnto her, her naughty manner of liuing, her vsuall cursing and banning of all that displeased her, and especially of their parents, and of them: (which she could not deny) her negligent comming to Church, and slacknesse in Gods seruice, all which she confessed to them, but she would now begin to amend she said. Her lewde bringing vp of her Daughter, in suffering her to be her dame, both in controuling of her, and beating of her, which before had been proued to her face, and she herselfe had also confessed. They remembred also vnto her, ỹ which they had heard some speak of, whē they were out of their fits: namely, that thee had saide, that their fits were but wantonnesse in them: they asked her now, whether she was still of that minde or not: She answered no: with many such like speeches, and in the ende, concluded with their hearty prayer to God for her, saying that they would forgiue her from the bottome of their heart, if she would confesse it that they might be wel, besides that, that they would intreate their parents and their friendes (so much as in them lay) clearely to forgiue and forget all that was past. Their maner of behauior in this their exhortation to her was, that as for the most part they began with teares, so they continued, and alwaies ended with teares: in so much that there was not any that heard them, could abstaine from

weeping,

weeping, onely the old woman was little or nothing moued.

This kinde of behauior in the children, paſſed on vntill neere Chriſtmas, yet without any touch or ſturring of the old woman, in the meane ſeaſon euery day almoſt, this old woman had a fit of bleeding at the noſe, and bled very much at a time (which is not vſuall in olde age) ſo that now ſhee ware faint, and looked very pale, inſomuch, that Maſter Throckmorton & his wife, were very carefull for her, fearing ſome harme ſhould come vnto her in his houſe: and comforted her by all the meanes they could, not ſuffering her to want any thing that ſhee deſired, if poſſibly they could come by it: ſo that ſhee did confeſſe to all that came to her, that ſhee was meruailous well vſed of Maſter Throckmorton, and thought herſelfe greatly bound to him, as truely ſhee had no other cauſe.

For as for her buſineſſe, ſhe did nothing, but her owne worke, and for her dyet, ſhe ſat at his owne boorde, or with his children, if they were in their fits, and could not ſit downe, and for her lodging ſhe lay continually in his owne Chamber, and for the moſt parte with one of his children.

And to tell you one thing more of her before her confeſſion, one of theſe Children, Miſtreſſe Elizabeth Throckmorton, was one day not well at eaſe, and could not eate any meate: yet when night came and ſupper was ready, ſhe thought to make her ſelfe amends: but when ſhe was ready to ſit at the Table, ſhe fell preſently into her fit, and yet that was not all the puniſhment ſhee had, but her mouth was locked vp, that ſhee could neither eate, drinke, nor ſpeake, as it was an vſuall thing with them all, to haue their mouthes ſhut vp, eſpecially at meale times, and other whiles ſhut and open, halfe a dozen times in a dinner, ſo would the ſpirites ſporte with them: but ſhe went ſo to bed, very ſorrowfull and weeping, what her griefe was, none can tell, becauſe ſhe was not able to vtter it: when the next day came, ſhee was ſicke and ill: as the day before, (yet out of her fitte) and eate very little or nothing at all, when night came, ſhe ſaide ſhe felt her ſelfe well amended, and very hungry: not knowing for her part, but that ſhe had eaten her ſupper the night before.

Then was ſhe counceiled by them that feared the worſt, to eate ſomething, but ſhe ſaide ſhe would not, purpoſing to eate her part at ſupper, when the time came, and meate was ſet vpon the boorde, ſhee fell into the ſame caſe as ſhee had been in the night before,

which

which matter Throckmorton perceiuing, he sayde to the olde woman that stood by her, I thinke (mother Samuel) you are disposed to pine that wench. She made him answere no, she was rather sorie to see it. Well sayd he, surely you shall neither eate nor drink, vntill she can doe both, and therefore (sayd master Throckmorton) whilest she fasteth, you shall fast, and when she can eate, you shall eate, but not before, die the matter as you will. And thus they continued both fasting, vntil Supper was almost ended, and the companie readie to arise: the one fasting vpon necessitie, because shee could not eate, and the other for master Throckmortons pleasure, because she might not.

The olde woman perceiuing that master Throcmorton was in good earnest with her, and that the meate was carried out of the Parlour: on the suddaine, vpon what motion God he knoweth, the child fetched a great sigh, for she had been weeping all Supper time, and spake, saying: If I had some meate now, I could eate it.

Mistresse Throckmorton (the childs mother) hearing her speake, as did also all the rest that were in the Parlour, commaunded presently that meate should be giuen to them both, the companie not giuing notice to mother Samuel of the matter: so they both fell to their meate very hartily, but especially the olde woman, who, as it should seeme, was then very hungrie, (as she had alwayes a good stomacke) and from that time forwards, during the olde womans continuing in the house, neither that childe, nor any of her sisters, had their mouthes shut vp, at any time when they should eate their meate, or if they were, they did not long continue so: although it was a common custome with them before time, to haue gone supperlesse to bed vpon that very occasion many a time.

After all these matters were passed ouer, and as it waxed euery day neerer and neerer to the time appointed, mother Samuel euery day complayned of a newe griefe to befall her: sometimes she would crye out of her backe, that it was so full of payne, that shee was not able to stirre her selfe in her bed all the day long, nor take any rest at night.

Sometimes she would in like sort crye out of her head, otherwhiles of her stomacke: yet she would eate her meate, saying that she had a gnawing at her heart, and the next day after it would be in her knee, or lower, so that she would goe halting vp and downe

the house. And to speake the truth of her, it should seeme that some thing there was that troubled her, whatsoeuer it was, for shee would so grone, and mone herselfe in the night time, one while complaining of this parte of her body, another while of that, that indeede she rested but little in the night time herselfe, and greatly disquieted those also that lay in the Chamber by her.

And one night amongst all the rest, she cryed out very pitifully of her belly, insomuch, that she disturbed and awakened both Master Throckmorton and his wife, that lay by her: saith Master Throckmorton, In Gods name Mother Samuel, what ayleth you, and why doe you grone so? Said shee, I haue a marueilous great paine in my belly on the suddaine, and I know not how it should be caused. Why said he, what is the matter in your belly? Shee answered, that there was something in it, which as shee thought stirred, and it was as big as a penny loafe: and put her to marueilous paine: whereupon Mistresse Throcmorton arose out of her bed, and went and felt vpon her belly, and there was indeed a marueilous swelling to the quantity before likened, but shee felt it not stirre, not staying long with her, the weather was so cold, and bee it spoken without offence to women, it may be that she bred then that childe, wherewithall shee said she was, when shee was asked what she could say (by my Lord the Iudge, why sentence of death should not be giuen against her,) as hereafter you shall heare. But whatsoeuer it was, she cried out to master Throckmorton of her belly, and said she was full of paine: and further shee said, that shee had often tolde him, that she thought there was some euill spirites haunted his house, which did thus torment his children, which thing he told her that he did easily beleeue was true: and now saith she, I verely beleeue, that one of them is gotten into my belly. Master Throcmorton said, that all this might very well bee true. So she said, that it was an euill house, and haunted with spirits, and wished that shee had neuer come into it: hee told her that if there were any euill spirits haunted the house, they were of her sending, and so he would grant all that she said. In the ende she passed away that night with groaning and moning, and the next morning shee was very euill at ease shee said, but her swelling in her belly was gone, and where her greatest paine was she could not tell, it was in so many places, but her stomack was the best of any other part, and after this she continually complained of one part of her

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body or other, so long as she stayed in the house.

Within a very short time after, one of the children fell into a most terrible fitte, mother Samuel standing by, and it was so grievous upon her for the time, as that neither shee nor any of her sisters had the like for the space of a yeare or two before, and especially her naeling fitts was so terrible and strong upon her as if it would have caused her eyes to start out of her head. This fitte did greatly quayle mother Samuel, for she her selfe did then think, that she should have seene the childe dyed at that present, and this wrong out of mother prayers: so that she desired the Lord then to helpe her, and to preserue her in that daunger, and shee hoped neuer to see her in the like againe. But the more earnest mother Samuel was in her prayers, the greater was the childes trouble and torment, and the oftener shee named GOD, or Jesus Christ, the stronger the childes fitte was upon her. And at that very instant (as hereafter you shall heare of the cell) when she had thus continued some two houres or more, the spirite spake vnto the childe and sayde, that there was a worse fitte then this to come yet, wherein she must bee worse handled then thus, the childe answered, that she cared neither for him nor his Dame, but willed them to doe their worst they could to her, for (shee sayd) she hoped God would deliuer her, and some after she came forth of her fitte and was very well; but the sight of this fitte was so terrible to mother Samuel, as she would many times pray that she might neuer see the like againe in any of them.

The children continued still all of them calling vpon mother Samuel to make confession of this matter, saying that shee must doe it before it bee long, (as good it were at last, but if shee would now doe it, that they might be well before Christmas, they would then thinke themselues beholding to her. They told her further, that now Christmas was at hande, and if shee would now confesse it, they should be presently well, and merie (by the grace of God) a merry Christmas. She answered that she would doe for them all the good she could, but for confession of this matter, she would not, for it was a thing she neuer knew of, nor consented vnto. Their father master Throckmorton, hearing his Children and the olde Woman thus talke together, stepped in and sayd, Mother Samuel you heare what these children say, to this is, that if you would confesse this fact, they should be presently

well, and they say that you must confesse it before it be long, & you know that they haue not vsed to tell lyes in their fits. Now therefore in the name of God, if there be any such matter, confesse it: it is neuer too late to repent and to aske for mercie: but she made to him the like answer that she had done to the children before. The sayd he, but what say you to that grieuous fit which the Spirit of late threatned to my daughter Iane, I would faine knowe when that should be. Oh saith she (remembring the terror of it) I trust in God I shall neuer see her in such a case againe, nor any of them all. Yes (saith M. Throcmorton, I verely thinke she shal haue it, & that shortly, for the spirit you know vseth not to faile them in any thing he promiseth. Oh (saith she) I trust in God she shall neuer haue it, speaking marueilous confidently. Why (saith M. Throckmorton) charge ỳ spirit in the name of God, ỳ she may escape this fit which is threatned. She presently said, I charge thée spirit in the name of God, ỳ mistris Iane neuer haue this fit. The child sitting by, sayd, truely the thing saith, I thank God, that I shal neuer haue this fit that he hath foretold me of. Saith M. Throckmorton, why, that is well, thanks be to God, go on mother Samuel, and charge the spirit in the name of God, & speake from your heart, that neither she nor any of them all haue their fits any more. So she said as M. Throckmorton willed her, speaking marueilous heartily. The same childe againe sayd, truely the thing saith, I thanke God, that I shall neuer haue it more after the tuesday after Twelfeday. Saith master Throckmorton, it is wel, thanks be to God, charge the spirit againe in the name of God, and speake from your heart, and be not afraid, that he depart from them all now at this present, and that he neuer returne to them againe, which words she vttered very loude, and very boldly. So soone as she had ended, then those three children that were then in their fits, and had so continued for the space of three weekes, wiped their eyes, and at that instant thrust backe the stooles whereon they sat, and stood vpon their legges, being as well as euer they were in their liues. Master Throckmorton had his face now towards the children, and his backe to the olde woman, and seeing them so to start vp suddenly, sayd, thankes be to God. While he was thus speaking (little knowing or thinking indéed of any such matter) the old woman fell down behind him on her knées, & said good M. forgiue me. He turned him about, and seeing her downe, said, why mother Samuel what is the matter?

Ah, said she, I haue been the cause of all this trouble to your children. Haue you mother Samuel said he? and why so? what cause did I euer giue you thus to vse me and my children? None at all said she. Then said master Throckmorton, you haue done mee the more wrong. God master, said she, forgiue me. God forgiue you said he, and I doe. But tell me, how came you to be such a kinde of woman? Master, saide shee, I haue forsaken my maker, and giuen my soule to the diuell, (these were her very wordes.) And olde mistresse Throckmorton their grandmother, and mistresse Throckmorton their mother, being now in the hall, (for this was done in the parlour,) hearing them very loud (not vnderstanding the matter perfectly) came into the parlour, of whom, (when mother Samuel saw her) shee asked likewise forgiuenesse. Mistresse Throckmorton their mother, presently without any questions forgaue her with all her heart, yet she could not well tell what the matter was. Mother Samuel asked these three children that were there forgiuenes, and after wards the rest, kissing al of them: the children easily forgaue her, for they knew not that shee had offended any of them, in their own persons: (except what they saw in their sisters, when they themselues were out of their fits.) Master Throckmorton and his wife perceiuing the old woman thus penitent, and so greatly cast downe: for she did nothing but weep and lamēt al this time, comforted her by al the good meanes they could, and said that they would freely forgiue her from their harts, so be it their children might neuer be more troubled. She answered, y^t she trusted in God, they should neuer haue their fits again, yet would she not be comforted for any thing that they could say. Then Master Throckmorō did send for M. Doctor Dorrington, the Minister of that town, & told him al y^e matter with the circumstances, desiring him to comfort her, which they all ioyning together, did so well as they could at that present: yet could not she forbeare weeping, & so cōtinued al y^e night. The vext day which was the sabboth day, and Christmas euen, M. Doctor Dorrington chose his text of repentance out of the 51. Psal. on set purpose to comfort her, & there declared in the open assembly, al the matter of Mo. Samuels late confession, applying his speech directly to the comforting of a penitent hart, and so by consequence of her. All this Sermon time, mother Samuel did nothing but weepe and lament, and many times was so very loud with sundry passions, that she caused all the church to looke on her.

And thus much further you shall knowe for this poynt: maister Throckmorton the same day after prayers were ended, very wisely remembring himselfe, and the old womans discontinuance heretofore, called to minde that there was none present at her confession but himselfe and maister Doctor, with his owne houshold, who might be all thought partiall in this matter, willed therefore mother Samuel to come into the body of the Church, and there demanded of her before his neighbours, whether that confession which she other night had made to him and maister Doctor was wrested and wrong out of her, or whether it proceeded frankly and freely of and from her selfe. She answered before them all that it came of her selfe, and desired all her neighbours to pray to God for her, and to forgiue her. Towards night maister Doctor Dorrington understanding the olde woman still to continue in this beastie case, came to M. Throckmortons house (who is his brother in law by marriage) and intreated him (upon simplicitie of good will) tendring the old womans comfort, to giue her leaue to goe home to her husband, & he would be a meanes that her husband should receiue her, and to reconcile them together, wherin the old woman was marueilous dutyful. To this motion M. Throckmorton did easily grant at the first, being as willing to comfort the old woman, as any, & indeede ded the meanes himselfe also that her husband might receiue her, little suspecting that any thing should fall out thereby otherwise then wel. The man when he vnderstood of it, spake bluntly (as his maner was) saying that she might come home if she would.

Now that you haue heard this old womans confession, it may happily seeme strange in some poynts to some, but for the truth of it, it is as certainlie true, as is any part of this booke, both the matter and the maner, and the words also obserued in all pointes, so neere as possibly could be remembred. Mother Samuel is now vpo Christmas euen at night gone home to her husband & her daughter, where wee doubt shee hath a cold welcome for her intertainement, and the rather because she hath confessed this matter, for it should seeme that they both set vpon her (as she her selfe after confessed) & so far forth prevailed with her, as that the next morning, which was Christmas day, she denied all that she had saide before, and it was no such matter with her. Before might it came to maister Throckmortons hearing that this new conuert had revolted againe, and had denied all that she had spoken to him: the best com-

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fort he had therin, was the open confession she made in the church, and thereupon did hardly beleeue that which was reported of her.

The same day in the euening, maister Doctor Dorington and M. Throckmorton went to her house to speak with her, and when they came at the doore, it pleased God that Iohn Samuel, his wife, and his daughter were talking of this matter, for it should seem that it was all their talke, which they vnderstanding, stayed a while, & heard the daughter say these words, Beleeue them not, beleeue them not, for all their faire speeches. Hereupon they went both presently in to the house and charged the daughter with these words, which she vtterly denyed, as did also the father and the mother. Then did M. Throckmorton demaund of her, concerning the matter which before shee had confessed in his house and in the Church, telling her that he had heard that she had denied it againe. She answered, that she would denie that she was a witch, or any cause of the troubling of his children. Why, sayd he, did not you confesse so much vnto me? I sayd so (sayth she) indeede, but it is nothing so. Why then, sayd he, I must not shew you that fauour which I promised: I will surely haue you before the Iustices: but sayd he, why did you confesse it to be so to me, if it be not so? She answered, For ioy. For ioy, said he (smiling to himselfe, marueiling what she could make of it) and why for ioy? Because sayd she, I did see your children presently well, after your good prayers and mine. Then sayd Master Throckmorton vnto her, I pray God so continue them, notwithstanding howsoeuer it bee, I will not let passe this matter thus, for seeing it is published, either you or I will beare the shame of it in the end: and so they departed for that night.

The next morning betimes, maister Throckmorton went to maister Doctor Dorringtons house, and tolde him, that he would not suffer this matter thus to die in his hand, least the worser sorte of the people should imagine that this was but some deuise of theirs, to bring the olde woman into further danger. So they agreed to approue her once againe in this matter, and sending for her to the Church, they found her farther off from confessing any thing that she had sayd or done, then euer shee was before. Then Master Throckmorton tooke her by the hand, and sayd that both shee and her daughter should that day (by Gods grace) goe with him to my Lord the Bishop of Lincolnes. So hee presently sent for the Constables, and charged them with the mother and daughter,

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and willed them to prouide for the iourney.

When the olde woman perceiued preparation for the iourney, and the Constables in a readinesse, Master Throckmorton also putting on of his bootes, she came to him and sayd, Master if you will goe with me into the parlour, I will confesse all to you alone. Sayd he, I will goe. So they went together, and there she confessed the whole matter againe vnto him which before she had done. Why then, sayd he, tell me why haue you denied it all this time? Oh sayd she, I would neuer haue denied it but for my husband and my daughter, who sayd that I was a foole in confessing of it, and that it had been better for me to haue died in the same estate I was in, then to confesse my selfe a Witch, for now euerie boate will call me old Witch whilest I liue. Master Throckmorton told her, if she would persist in confessing the trueth, he would shewe her all the fauour he could. In this meane while commeth in vnto them Master Doctor Dorington, and he fell into questioning with her, but she seemed something coldly to confesse that vnto him which before she had done: so he drew her aside, and Master Throckmorton went from them. Then did master Doctor Dorington call for penne, inke and paper, and wrote downe that confession which she made.

In the meane time master Throckmorton sent to the Church, which is adioyning to his house, there being diuers of his neighbours, for it was about prayers time, he desired them to come to him, and telling them the matter, placed them hard vnderneath the Parlour window we, where master Doctor and this old woman were talking together. Whereof when notice was giuen to master Doctor, he spake very low we, and willed the olde woman to lift vp her voyce also, fayning something, so that the neighbours which were without might easilie heare all the words that passed betweene them. When they had done, master Throckmorton went vnto them into the parlour, and desired them to come forth into the hall; when they came, there stood all the neighbours that had heard this matter, then began master Doctor to reade in their presence that which the woman had confessed, but she would faine haue denied al again. Nay, said ỹ neighbours to her, it is too late to denie any thing now, for we heard all this with our eares, telling to her ỹ place where they were. Whē she perceiued her self thus catched in a trap, she would haue made ỹ best of it, but it would not preuaile.

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As they were thus in the house together, came in Iohn Samuel the olde Womans husband, who had vnderstood that there was something to doe in the house concerning his wife. When hee was come, Master Throckmorton tolde him that which his wife had agayne confessed, and with the rest hee sayde, that his wife would neuer haue denied that which she did but for him and his daughter. Hast thou sayd so? sayde hee to his wife (giuing her a foule terme) and with that would haue striken her, had not others stood betwixt them. The olde Woman perceiuing her husband thus fiercely comming towards her, fell downe presently in a counterfeit swoune before them all. Mistresse Throckmorton standing by, was on the sodaine marueilously amazed thereat, and called for *aqua vitæ*, for her. When they take her vp, they perceiued her countenance nothing altered, but that she loked chearefull enough. One of her neighbours standing by, peraduenture better acquainted with her fashions then the rest, sayd, if they would let her alone, he would be their warrant, that she would doe well enough: so presently after, she came to her self again, and all was well. These circumstances about her confession are therefore the more expressly set downe although they be not so pertinent to the matter, neither indeed should haue bin declared at all, had it not bin reported by some in the countrey, & those that thought themselues wise, that this mother Samuel now in question, was an olde simple woman, and that one might make her by fayre words confesse what they would. But to leaue that to the iudgement of them that knew her wel enough, Master Throckmorton continued on his iourney, purposing to discharge himself of the matter, and caused the olde Woman with her daughter to be carried the same day to my Lord, the Bishop of Lincolne, and there he examined her and her daughter.

The Examination of *Alice Samuel* of *Warboys*, in the Countie of *Huntington*, taken at *Buckden* before the right reuerend Father in God, *William* by Gods permiſſion Biſhop of *Lincolne*, the 26. of December, 1592.

BEing aſked whether a dun chicken did euer ſuck on her chin, and how often, the ſaid Examinat ſayth, that it ſucked twiſe & no more ſince Chriſtmas euens euen laſt. Being aſked whether it was a naturall chicken, ſhe ſaith it was not, ſhe knoweth it was no naturall chicken, becauſe when it came to her chin ſhe did ſcarſe feele it, but when ſhee wiped it off with her hand, her chin did bleed. She ſaith further, that the ſaid dun chicken did firſt come vnto her and ſucke on her chin before it came to Maſter Throckmortons houſe, and that the ill and the trouble that hath come to Maſter Throckmortons children, hath come by meanes of the ſaid dun chicken, the which chicken ſhe knoweth is now both gone from them and from her. And further ſhe ſaith, that M. Throckmorton and M. doctor Dorington ſhal bring further information of ſuch things as yet ſhe hath not declared.

The Examination of *Alice Samuel* of *Warboys* in the Countie of *Huntington*, taken at *Buckden* the 29. day of December 1592, before the reuerend Father in God, *William* by Gods permiſſion Biſhop of *Lincolne*, *Francis Crumwel*, and *Richard Tryce*, Eſquiers, Iuſtices of her Maieſties peace within the Countie aforeſaid.

SHe ſaith, ſhe neuer did hurt to any, ſauing to the children in queſtion. Being demaunded how ſhe knoweth the ſaid dun chicken is gone from the ſaid children: ſhe ſayth, becauſe the ſaid dun chicken with the reſt, are now come into her, and are now in the bottome of her bellie, and make her ſo full, that ſhee is like to burſt, and this morning they cauſed her to be ſo full, that ſhe could ſcant lace her cote, and that on the way as ſhe came, they weighed ſo heauy, that the horſe ſhee rid on did fall downe and was not able to carrie her. And further ſhe ſaith, that the vpright man of whome ſhe hath confeſſed to maſter Throckmorton, told her that maſter Throckmorton was a hard man and would trouble her much, wherefore he would

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giue her fiue spirits that should vexe and torment his children, and so shée did: which spirits had reward of her by sucking of her blood oftentimes when they were without her body, and that the said spirits did suck of her blood before she sent them forth any whither. She saith further, that whatsoeuer the children of M. Throgmorton did speak in their fits proued true and was true: as for example, whensoeuer the said children said they did sée the said spirits, then were the spirits there, and she did also sée them. And she saith, that often times shée did giue a priuie becke or nod with her finger or head, and then the spirits did presently stop the childrens mouth, that they could not speake vntill they came out againe: and then would the children wipe their eyes and be wel againe. Further she saith, that it was taught her of a man that did come vnto her house, but where he did dwell, or what his name was, she cānot tell, who told her that if she would call the said fiue spirits they would come: and shee called them, and they appeared in the likenes of dun chickens, their names were as followeth: first, Pluck; second, Catch, the third White, and the other thrée she called with her mouth with thrée smacks: and two of them, she (this examinate) sent to Master Ro. Throckmorton of Warboys and his wife, and they returned againe, and told her that God would not suffer them to preuaile. Whereupon she (this examinate) sent the said spirits to the children of the said M. Throckmorton, by meanes whereof they haue bēn so strangly tormented, as to the neighbours and country hath bēn séene. She saith further, ỹ what the children did speak in their fits in her hearing, that it was true, & so it fel out. Being asked further what the vpright mans name was ỹ gaue her the diuels, she said she could not tell: where vpon she was moued to goe into another chāber, & demand of her spirits what his name was, which she presently did, & there with a loud voice said these words as followeth, O thou diuel, I charge thee in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy-ghost, that thou tel me the name of the vpright man which gaue me the diuels: which thing she did thrée times, and then returned saying, that her spirits had tolde her that his name was Langland. And being demanded where the said Langland dwelled, she said she could not tel. Then was she moued to go into the said chāber againe, & demande of her spirits where ỹ said Langland dwelt: which also she presently did, & there wᵗ a loud voice thrée times said; O diuel I charge thee in the name of the Father, the Son, & the Holy-ghost, tel

mee where the saide *Langland* dwelleth, then shée returned and saide that hee had no dwelling. Then was shee further moued to goe againe and demaund where the said Langland was at that present, which also shée did, and demaunded as before, and returned with this answere, That her spirits tolde her that he went the last voyage beyond the seas. After these confessions thus made, mother Samuel and her daughter were committed to the gayle of Huntington. Now that we haue brought mother Samuel to the gayle, wée will let her there rest in Gods peace and the Quéenes, vntill the next generall assises day holden at Huntington, and although many things fell out vnhappily concerning her, during her continuance in the gayle, whereof she was greatly suspected, as the death of one of the Gaylers seruants whom she threatned, the extreme sickneſſe of one of his children, with his present amending after the scratching of her, and diuerse other things which are shrewde péeces of euidence against her, if there had béen nothing else laide to her charge: yet because they do not concerne the trouble of these children, neither is a matter so perfectly knowne to the authors of this booke, it is therefore but touched by the way.

And to come vnto the daughter Agnes Samuel, who now commeth vpon the stage with her part in this tragedie, you shall vnderstand that she was left with her mother in the gayle vntill the Sessions day held at Huntington the ninth of Januarie following, which day was the Tuesday that the children so often had spoken of to the old woman.

At dinner time Master Throckmorton made his request to the high Sheriffe and the Iustices to baile this maide, and to haue her home to his house, to sée, if it might please God, whether any such euidences of guiltinesse would appeare against her, as had before appeared in the children against the mother. This sute was not easily granted, for it was a demur amongst the Iustices whether the maide was baylable by law in this case or no. In the end Master Throckmorton continuing his sute, they being resolued of the doubt, graunted it: but it was almost thrée of the clock in the afternoone before, as euery body can witnesse that were then present: which time is therefore héere mentioned because it hath relation to the next pointe that hereafeer followeth, as you shall heare.

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The report of Master Doctor *Dorington* of that which happened at *Warboys*, on Tuesday which was the Sessions day at *Huntington*, the ninth of Ianuarie.

ABout twelue of the clock a little before dinner, Marie, Ione, and Grace, the daughters of Robert Throckmorton of Warboys aforesaid, Esquire, fell into their accustomed fits of lamenesse, blindnesse, deafnesse, and want of feeling, onely their youngest brother Robert, of the age of nine yeres, might speak vnto Iane with her vnderstanding, and she only might speake in the like maner to Marie and Grace. Immediatly after dinner their vncle Ma. Doctor Dorington parson of Warboys, comming to see them with a scholler of Cambridge, found them all three in their fits, which seemed not so grieuous at that time as merrie and pleasant, repeating oftentimes these words, each one of them: I am glad, I am glad, none so glad as I. The said M. Doctor their vncle, willed their brother to aske them wherefore they were so glad. Iane answered him, we shall knowe within these two houres good newes, still wishing that two houres were spent, the two other sisters affirmed the same. Mary and Iane whispering secretly one in the others eare, spake thus much in our hearing oftentimes: I maruell how she should know that thing, I am sure none of this house told her, & therefore it cannot be but that the spirits told her. The said Robert was willed againe by his vncle the doctor, to aske of Iane, and Iane to aske of Mary and Grace, when they should come forth of this fit, they all answered. Now by and by, and then wee shal go wel al of vs into the hall, out of this parlor, and thence returning quickly hither againe, we shal presently enter into another fit like vnto this, and then you shall heare newes, for by that time the two houres will bee almost spent: yet after wee haue tolde the news we shal haue a paying fit, but it shal be short. Al these things foretold proued most true, for they came out of their fit perfectly well, they did arise off from their stooles themselues, and all three of them went first out of the great Parlor into an inward lesse Parlor, to see how their mother did, then being not wel at ease, and keeping her bed. Presently they went from this into the hall, to see their sister Elizabeth then sitting by the fire, and being there, they were willed by one of their kinswomen in the house, not

to returne any more into the sayd parlour, but notwithstanding that counsell, they would néedes goe all three into the parlour. They were no sooner entred into the sayd place, but euery one of them fell into their former fits, lame, blinde, and deafe, insomuch as they must néeds be carried to their stooles by the fire side: where being once placed, they began to repeate agayne, I am glad, I am glad, none so glad as I: and being demaunded why, they answered all three, that Agnes Samuel should bee brought to their fathers house from Huntington, and they should not heare Agnes Samuel as they did her mother, in their fits, because their father should not trouble her with any moe questions, and so the spirit telleth them. These words vttered they all seuerally, being asked one after the other, and then they all togither fell presently into extreame fits, of bowing their bodies, their heads and féete almost méeting together, their bellies being highest with great groaning. But this endured not long, (thankes be to God) then rubbing their eyes twise or thrice, they séemed as waking out of a sléepe, and so became perfectly well as euer before, Iane vttering these words to the spirite, which as it should séeme should say, we are gone: then maistresse Iane answered, farewell and be hanged. Their vncle Doctor there present with the rest, giuing thankes to God, asked them all how they did, and they sayd very well we thanke God: agayne being asked how they felt themselues all this time of two houres past, they sayd that they had béen in a sléepe. He asked them further, if they had dined, which thing he knew they had done, for he found them all at dinner merie and pleasant, yet they answered, they had not dined, and yet they had no stomackes.

After Agnes Samuel was brought to maister Throckmortons house, the children continued for three or foure dayes without any fits at all, so that their parents were put in great comfort that their children should then haue béen cleane deliuered from their torments: but it should séeme that the matter was not yet brought to an end, for the children fell all of them a fresh into their fits againe, and were as grieuously afflicted as euer they were in the old womans time, and then the spirits did begin as plainly to accuse the daughter as euer they did the mother, and doe tell the children that the old woman hath set ouer her spirits to her daughter, and that she hath bewitched them all ouer agayne, and that shée will deale worse with them then euer her mother did. The children

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in their fits carried the same minde to the daughter and to her spirits, as they did to the mother before, saying, that they cared not for any thing that any of them all could doe vnto them, for their trust was in God, and he would deliuer them out of her hands, they sayd. Many very straunge things fell out amongst them in one moneth next after, which because they were not particularly committed to writing, they are therefore here omitted.

Sone after, the maide was thus brought as you heare, to continue at master Throckmortons house: mistresse Ioane the eldest daughter of the sayd master Throckmorton, was brought home likewise from Tichmersh groue, where we left her, to Warboys to her fathers house: and if it should particularly be declared how she was dealt withall for the time she there continued, it would adde another third part vnto this booke, and you would thinke also that the matters which could bee spoken of her, would bee nothing superfluous. But to let all that passe, let vs come vnto this present matter, as it was particularly obserued at Warboyse.

Vpon Friday which was the ninth of Februarie, 1592. Mistresse Ioane the eldest daughter of the sayd master Throckmorton, fell into her fit as vsually before she had done, and complayned of great payne in her legges, which had bẽn sore nine or ten weekes before that, namely, the most part of the time while shee continued at Tichmersh groue, with her vncle master Gilbert Pickering. But after shee returned home to her sisters, she grewe much worse in her legges then before, and for the space of a full fortnight before this day, her legges were so ful of ache and paine, that she could neither walke nor sit, but onely lye either vpon her bed, or els vpon cushions by the fire side. Continuing thus in her fit all that day, towards night the spirit came vnto her, and shee talked very familiarly with it, as her common custome was, demaunding of it from whence it came, and what newes it brought, speaking very disdainfully to it. The thing answered, that it would not tell her from whence it came, but this was the newes it brought, that shee should haue verie extreame fits hereafter, and bee worse handled then euer she was: saying, that shee should now haue her fits, being in perfect memorie, and hauing all her senses. She answered, that shee neither feared nor cared for him, for GOD, shee sayd, was on her side, and would protect her from him, so the thing departed without any further talke, and she

him, so the thing departed without any further talke, and shée continued in her fit the most part of that night vntill she went to bed.

The next day which was Saterday, the tenth of Februarie, (for it would bee too long to speake of euerie particular houre, although almost euerie houre brought varietie with it) in the afternoone as she lay groaning in her fit by the fire side, she fell sodainly into bléeding at the nose, and bled very much, whereat she marueiled (for she did perceiue it) saying, I pray God send me good newes after this, for it is straunge with me to bléede, I bled not so much this seuen yeares before: when she had much bloudied her handkercheffe, she sayd that it was a good déede to throwe the handkercheffe into the fire and burne the Witch, for she knew she sayd, that this bléeding came of no good cause. After she had talked thus to her selfe a little, it should séeme the spirit came to her: for she sayd thus smiling to her selfe, and casting her eyes about her, what is this in Gods name, that commeth thus tumbling to me? It tumbleth like a football, I thinke it be some puppit-player, it is much like his dames old thumbd cap. What is your name I pray you sayd she? The thing answered (as it should séeme) that his name was Blew. For presently vpon the question demaunded of his name, she made answere againe her selfe saying: Master Blew you are welcome, I neuer saw you before, I thought sayd she, that my nose bled not for nothing, what newes haue you brought? It told her as before. What doest thou say, saith she, that I shall be worse handled then euer I was? Ha, sayth she, what doest thou say? (for she would euer repeate the spirits words after him, as they all would doe when they were talking with them, bending their heads to the ground) that I shall now haue my fits, when I shall both heare, sée, and know euerie bodie, that is a new tricke indéede, I thinke neuer any of my sisters were so vsed, but I care not for you (sayd she) doe your worst, and when you haue done, you will make an end: these were her very words.

Then was she silent a while, yet séemed to listen to something that the spirit did say, and presently called for Agnes Samuel, and asked where she was, saying, that she had but too much libertie, and that she must be more straightly looked vnto, for of late (sayd she) she was in the kitchin chamber talking with her Spirits, (for so Master Blew had told her) and intreated him not to let me haue

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any such extreame fittes, when I should both speake, heare, and knowe euerie bodie. But he answered, that he would torment me in that sort, and not giue ouer vntil he had brought his dame (meaning Agnes Samuel) vnto her ende. So that now, sayth Mistris Ioane to her, (for by that time she was called into the place to her) you haue spun a faire thread: your diuels (for so then she called them) will be no longer at your commaundement: it will bee no better with vs, sayd she, vntill you and your mother be both hanged. The mayde standing by and hearing this, confessed indeede that she was in the kitchin chamber and alone: but she denied that she talked with any Spirits, nor yet knewe of any such things. Mistris Ioane hearing her say so, willed her not to denye it, for it was surely so, she thought, saying, that she knewe the Spirites would not lye to her. Soone after she came out of this fit, and greatly complayned of payne in her legges, and being presently demaunded where she had been, and what she had sayd, she answered that she had been a sleepe, and had sayd nothing that she knewe of, marueiling much how her handkerchiffe which she had in her hand, should come to be so bloodie, for (sayd she) it was not so euen now, and I am sure that I vse not to bleed: I beleeue (sayd she) some bodie tooke it from me and bloodied it, and hath giuen me it againe, for this is the same handkerchiffe I had euen now, with many such like speeches.

At night presently vpon her father and mothers rising from supper, she fell into the fit which before M. Blew had threatned her, for she was most grieuously wrong & twitched in euery part of her body: somtimes she would thrust forth her armes so straight and so stiffe, that it was not possible to bow them: sometimes agayne she would so wrest and writhe them cleane backwards, as that no man or woman were able to doe the like by their naturall strength, she her selfe crying out very pitifully: sometimes of her stomacke, saying that she was very sicke, and offered to vomite: sometimes of her head, and other whiles of her belly, and neuer a part or member of her was free from extreame paine, she her selfe euer calling vpon God to thinke vpon her, and deliuer her. Sometimes it would so stop her breath, and hold it so long, that when she could recouer it agayne, she fetched a marueilous deepe and lowd grone. And being oftentimes asked in this fit by diuers that stood by how she did, she made answere, that she was marueilous

ſicke and full of payne, affirming that ſhe both heard and ſawe all that were preſent. In this wofull caſe ſhe continued the ſpace of halfe an houre and more, to the great griefe of the beholders, (for this is one of the firſt fits that either ſhe or her ſiſters had, hauing their perfect ſences.) Now as the ſodayn as ſhe was thus cõplayning, ſhe fell into her ſenceleſſe fit, hauing her mouth alſo ſhut vp, and now is ſhe depriued of all maner of ſence agayne. Remaining thus quietly a little ſpace, ſhe fetched a great groan, wherupon her mouth was opened, and ſhe ſpake ſaying: Here is a rule indæde, I perceiue that you are as good as your word with me, frõ whence come you now, & what newes do you bring now I pray you? The thing anſwered, that ſhe muſt be yet worſe handled then all this commeth vnto. Saith ſhe, God is aboue the diuell, and doe what you can, for you ſhall not be able to hurt me. But tell me, why doe you puniſh me worſe then all my ſiſters, hauing my fits when I can know euery body? The thing anſwered becauſe ſhe tolde tales of their dame: who is your dame (ſaith ſhe?) He anſwered, Nan Samuel. And this you muſt vnderſtand, in all their maner of talking together, that the children would firſt repeate the firſt ſpirits anſwere, before they would aſke any further queſtion of them. Thẽ ſayd ſhe, if Nan Samuel be your dame, I will tell more tales of her yet, and I hope to tell ſuch a tale of her one day, that ſhe ſhall not be able to anſwere it, nor you for her. The thing anſwered, that he would then puniſh her the more for it. She ſaid that ſhe cared not for that. Then ſayd the thing, when was Smack with you? (this Smack was another of the ſpirits names.) Sayth ſhe, I know no ſuch fellow as Smack is: yes ſayth the thing, that you doe: and he it is that telleth you al theſe things, but I wil courſe him for it. Saith ſhe, do your worſt to him or to me, for I care not for you. Farewel, ſayth the thing. Do you bid me farewel, ſaith ſhe? fare you wel and be hanged (for you ſhall haue the truth as ſhe ſpoke it) & come again ſaith ſhe, when you are ſent for. Soone after this ſhe came forth of her fit and was very ſicke, and full of payne in her legs. The next day which was the Sabbaoth, ſhe was reaſonable wel al the forenoone, as ſhe was al other daies, but her greateſt pangs & fits were alwayes towards night. And thus leauing her vntill night, you ſhall heare what happened the ſame day, amongſt others of her ſiſters. Soone after dinner was ended, there came vnto the houſe one M. Throckmorton of Brampton, to ſee how theſe children did, & ſtay-

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ing in the Parlor a little while, one of these children, mistris Elizabeth by name, as she was comming in at the Parlor doore, fell sodainly into her fit in the sight of them al, which was not strange to any, but to the gentleman, because it was an vsuall thing with her. Cõtinuing thus a little space, M. Throckmorton, the childs father, sayd to the other M. Throckmorton his kinsman, will you see coslin, sayth he, a wonder: Saith the Gentleman, haue you any greater wonders then to see this sight: Saith the childes father, I haue as great, for you shall see this childe brought out of this case wherein now you see her, at the pronouncing of certaine words by a mayde in this house. Saith the gentleman, I would fain see that, for I am sory to see this sight. So ỳ childes father called for Agnes Samuel, & willed her to say to the child these words, I charge thée diuel in the name of ỳ God of heauen & earth as I hate thée, and am no witch, nor guilty of this matter, that thou depart from this child, & suffer her to come forth of her fit. This sayd by the mayd, the child moued not. Then the childes father willed her to say thus, I charge thée thou diuel, as I loue thée, and haue authoritie ouer thée, and am a Witch, and guiltie of this matter, that thou suffer this childe to be well at this present. These wordes were no sooner ended, but the childe wiped her eyes, and was as well as any in the Parlour. As the gentleman was thus wondring and talking with this mayd about the matter, saying that she could tell a prettie tale for her selfe, another of those children, mistris Iane, standing by, fell presently into her fit, and the same experience was made by her, as was made by her sister before. And this was very vsuall amongst them, for it had been proued diuers times, and was foretolde by the spirit to one of them being in her fit, (a fortnight before this time:) that whensoeuer Agnes Samuel should say these words, they should be presently well.

To returne to mistris Ioane, who was very sick and full of paine all that day, and when night came, presently after supper fell into the same maner of fit, which she had the night before, for shee was most grieuously twitched, wrung, and tormented in euery part of her body hauing her perfect sences, for she was able to see, heare, & vnderstand, euery thing that was asked of her, and this kind of fit continuing some certaine space, she fell on the sodaine into a senceless fit: and being silent a while, hauing her mouth shut vp, shée fetched a great groane, and said, from whence come you M. Smack,

and what newes doe you bring? The spirite answered, that hee came from fighting. From fighting sayth she, with whome, I pray you? The spirite answered with Pluck, (which was another of the spirits names.) Where did you fight I pray you sayd she? The spirit answered, in his old dames backhouse, which is an olde house standing in mother Samuels yarde, and they fought with great colwlstaues, this last night. And who got the masterie I pray you sayd she? He answered, ỳ he broke Plucks head. Saith she, I would that he had broke your necke also. Saith the spirite, is that all the thanke that I shal haue for my labour? Why sayth she, do you look for thanks at my hands? I would you were all hanged vp one against another, and your dame and all, for you are all nought, but it is no matter saith she, I do not well to curse you, for God I trust will defend me from you all. So he departed and bad her farewell. And being asked by her when he would come againe, hee saide on Wednesday at night: he was no sooner gone but presently came Pluck to her. For she sayd, from whence come you Pluck, with your head hanging downe in that sorte? So he answered her in all respects, according as Smacke before had tolde her. Then said the spirite to her, when saw you Smacke? She answered, that she knew no such fellow. He sayd, yes that she did, but she would not bee knowne of him. It should seeme sayd she, that you haue met with your match, and with diuers such like spæches betwixt them he departed. And she soon after came out of her fit, but was very ill, & cõplayned of payne in her legs. The next day being munday, shee was very sick all the day, and in the afternoone she fell into a marueilous extreame fit hauing perfect sences, for the space of halfe an houre or more. Agnes Samuel standing by, and seeing the extremitie thereof, seemed to pray with others very heartily for her: for the grieuousnes of that sight would haue moued any stony heart in the world to pitie. And being asked of the matter, what she thought of it, and whether it was wantonnesse or not, as she had oftentimes sayd before, she came to the house (as well as her mother had done) but now she could not denie, but that it was some supernaturall worke in the patient. Notwithstanding as may be thought, she that was thus tormented, neuer once conceiued an euill thought against her, all the time that she had her perfect sences: this kind of fit ended, she was well, excepting the payn in her legs. After supper, so soone as her parents were risen with the rest, she

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fell into the same fit agayne hauing her sences, and within halfe an houre, she was on the sodayne snatched into her senceles fit, and presently she had her mouth opened and sayd, will this geare neuer be left? I hope it will be better one day with you, from whence come you now Catch, (sayth she) limping in that sorte? I hope you haue met with your match. Catch answered, that Smack and he had bëen fighting, and that Smacke had broken his leg. Sayd she, that Smacke is a shrewd fellow belike, I would I could once sée him. Pluck came yester night (sayd she) with his head broken, and nowe he hath broken your legge, I hope sayd she, that he will break both your neckes before he haue done with you. Catch answered, that he would be euen with him before he had done. Then sayd she, put forth your other legge, let me sée if I can breake that also, for shee had a sticke in her hand, the spirit tolde her that she could not hit him. Can I not hit you sayd shée? let me trie. Then the spirit (as it should séeme) put out his legge, for she lifted vp her stick easily, and sodaynely gaue a great stroake on the ground. You haue not hurt me sayd the spirit. Haue I not hurt you sayd she? no, but I would if I could, for then would I make some of you come shorte home. So she séemed diuers times to strike at the spirit, but he leaped ouer the sticke as she sayd, as if it had bëen a Jack an Apes. So after many such toyes vsed betwixt them, the spirit departed, and she came forth of her fit, continuing all that night, and the next day very sicke, and full of payne in her legs. At night when supper was ended she fell into her sensible fit agayne, & continuing therin half an houre, she fell into another kind of fit which is common to her and the rest of her sisters, and resting so silent a little space, she fetched a great groan & said, Ha sirra, are you come now with your arme in a sling M. Blew? who hath met with you I pray? The spirit answered, You know well enough. Do I know (sayd she) well enough? how should I know? Why (sayd the spirit) Smack and I were fighting, and he hath broken mine arme. Sayd she, that Smack is a stout fellow indéed belike, I hope he will breake all your necks because you punish me without a cause. I would sayd she that I could once be acquainted with him. We wil be euẽ with him (saith Blew) one day. Why sayd she, what wil you doe? The spirite sayd, that they would all fall vpon him and beate him. Sayd she, Belike he careth not for you all, for hee hath broken Plucks head, Catches legge, and your arme, now you haue something to doe, you may

go heale your arme. Yea (saide the spirit) when mine arme is whole we will beate Smacke. So for that night they parted, and she came out of her fit, complaining of manie partes of her bodie, so as it should seeme that she was more heartie and better at ease while the spirit talked with her by far, then she was when she came forth of her fit, for she would greatly complaine of her legges all the day, and the most part of the night in like sorte, so that she her selfe tooke little rest, and disquieted them that lay neere her. The next day which was Wednesday, she was very ill, and when night came and supper was ended, she first fell into her sensible fit, and after that was ended, she fell into her senceleese fit. Anon, fetching a great sigh, she said, Who sent for you master Smack? He made answere that he was come according to his promise which he made vnto her on Sunday at night. Belike said she, you will keepe promise, but I had rather you would keepe you awaie, and come when I send for you: but what newes haue you brought? I tolde you saide hee, that I had beene a fighting the last Sundaie night, but I haue had manie battels since. Yea so it seemeth saith shee, for here was both Pluck, Catch, and Blew, and they all came maimed vnto mee. Yea said hee, I haue met with them all. But I maruel, said she, that you could beate them, they are verie great, and you are but a little one. Saide hee, I am good enough for two of the best of them together. But saide shee, I can tell you newes. What is that, said hee? They will all at one time fall vpon you and beat you. He said, he cared not for that, hee would beat two of the best of them. And who shall beate the other two, said she? for there is one that hath beene manie times spoken of, and hee carrieth the name of Hardname, for his name standeth vpon eight letters, and euery letter standeth for a word, but what his name is we know not (onely Hardname) The spirite answered that his cosin Smacks would help him to beate the other two. There are also two other Smacks as you may reade in the olde womans confession. What saide shee, shall your cosins Smacks helpe you? What, is there kindred amongst diuels? I neuer heard of that thing before, that the diuels were cosins, GOD keepe mee from that kindred. Such like foolish talke they had together at that time. In the end, the spirite sayde, You shall haue no moe such fittes as you haue had. No, sayde shee, that is well, but you can doe nothing but lye. Why sayde hee, will you not beleeue mee? No sayd she, shall I

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beléeue the Diuel, who is the father of all lyes? But you shall finde it true sayd hée. If I doe, then will I beléeue you, sayd she, but not before. I pray GOD it be true, but whether it be true or not, I care not a rush for you. No, sayd he, will you not thank me? Thank you said she, hang you and all your fellowes, for I will not beléeue you no farther than I sée you, neither do I care for any of you all.

This Smacke hath oftentimes gone about to win her fauour, making very fayre promises to her that he would doe any thing for her, if she would loue him. But it hath pleased God by the work of his good spirit, that she hathalwaies withstood him, denying him, and defying him vnto the vttermost, wishing all euill to light vpon him and his fellowes, for so tormenting her and her sisters without cause, alwaies desiring the assistance of Gods holy spirit to preserue her and her sisters from such temptations. In the ende, she sayd, You haue tolde me many times that I should scratch Agnes Samuel, tel me now, whē shal I scratch her? The spirit answered, ỹ she should scratch her before the Assises. What said she, shal she stād before the Iudges with a scratcht face? Yea, sayd the spirit, so it should be. She answered, that she would set it on whensoeuer shée did it: and sayd shée, loke that you be as good as your word in this matter, for I would faine scratch her, for whatsoeuer the matter is, sayd she, I cannot abide her now adayes, and I am sicke when I loke on her, (and so indéed she was) for shée would not suffer her willingly to stay in her company when she was out of her fit: and being asked the cause why, shée sayd, shée could not tell, for shée did beare her no malice nor grudge in the world, neither did shee giue her any euill wordes, yet she sayd, shée loathed her company. In the parting the spirit told her that she should haue no moe fits after the Assises. No, sayd she, I am very glad of that. But said the spirite, if you haue, then woe be to Agnes Samuel, for I will bring her to her ende. And thus the spirite left her not saying any thing of his returne, & she presently came out of her fit, & was much better then ordinarily she vsed to be, and the next day she was able to goe very well on her legges, whereof shee had no vse a whole moneth before.

On Munday next following, which was the twentieth of Februarie after supper, she began to talke againe, hauing béene in her fit an houre or more before, for she had eaten her supper in her

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fit, with two other also of her sisters that were in their fits. On the suddaine she said, What are you come now? I had thought you would haue come no more, and that we should haue béen well rid of you; but where haue you béen, said she? He answered, that his cosin Smack and hee, had béen fighting with Pluck and Catch, and they had beaten them both very much, so that they dare not come to her any more. So they had very much talke about fighting and such other matters, which before are set downe. In the ende she asked when she should scratch Agnes Samuel. The spirit answered that if shée would now scratch her, then her face would bée whole before the Assises, which must not be. So shée willed him to loke to that which he promised, for she would kéepe her nailes for her. Yea, saith the spirit, and shée was also consenting to the death of the Lady Crumwel. What, saith mistresse Ioane, was shee also consenting to the death of the Lady Crumwel? euen like enough, I thought so, saith shée. Yea, saith the spirit, and to proue this to bée true, whensoeuer any stranger shall come into the house, you shall fall into your fit, and if then Agnes Samuel shal come vnto you and say, As I am a Witch, and consenting to the death of the Ladie Crumwel, so I charge thée to depart, and to let her come forth of her fit, you shall be presently well. So Mistresse Ioane repeated the same words after the spirite which were then set downe in writing. If it be so, saith mistresse Ioane, why then I hope she shal be hanged at the assises as well as her mother, and that sir Henrie Crumwel will loke to that matter. In the shutting vp of the talke, the spirit tolde her that shee should haue her fits vpon the Assises day, and all maner of fits which at any time she euer had, but after the Assises day she should haue no mo fits, but if she had, then woe be to Agnes Samuel, for then (saith the spirit) I will make her pay for it.

Upon Friday following when supper was ended, shee fell into her talking fit againe, hauing had a very solemne fit an howre before that time. On the suddaine shee saide, Smacke where haue you béen all this time? and how chaunce I talked not with you hauing béen in my fits diuers times of late? Saith Smacke, I was not at home, but now I bring you good newes, What is that, saide shee? The spirite said, You shall haue no moe fits vntill this day seuennight, if you will arise betimes to morrow morning, otherwise if you do not, you shall haue your fit in the morning which shal con-

tinue

tinue all the day to your trouble. Then sayd she, If rising earely will preuent my fit, I will (God willing) get vp betimes to morrow morning: which indéede she did, and escaped her fit that day. Then she demanded why she should haue no moe fits that wéeke. The spirit answered, that Agnes Samuel intreated him that you should haue no moe fits, euen as I loued her: but (sayd hee) I loue her not, yet you shall haue no moe fittes this wéeke, except some strangers come, if you will arise to morrowe betimes. And why, sayd she, must I haue my fits if straungers come? The spirit answered, To bring her to shame. But when did you talke with her, sayd she? Euen now (sayd the spirit) in the Church chamber. She will denie that, sayd mistresse Ioane, when she is asked of it. Yea, sayd the spirit, so it standeth her in hand: and you must haue one whole wéeke of very sicke fits, sayd the spirit, before the Assises. Must I, sayd she, for whose soule? Agnes Samuel will haue it so, sayd the spirit. Let me know, sayd she, when that day shall be. You shall know this day seuennight, sayd he, and in what sort likewise your fit shall be. Before they parted, the spirit asked how her legs did. She sayd, well thankes be to God, why doe you aske? He sayd, because he was glad of it. Be glad for your selfe, sayd she, and be not glad for me, for I will neuer thanke you for it, neither do I passe for you a ruth, for God (I trust) will deliuer me in despight of you. So for that time he departed, and she came out of her fit and was very well, and so continued all the next day, arising betimes in the morning. On Sunday following, being the 25. of Februarie, M. Throckmorton of Brampton, who was the first stranger that came next to the house, (as is before named) within one halfe houre after his comming, mistresse Ioane fel into her fit, and had not long so continued, but Smack came to her, to whom she said: How chanceth it that I haue my fit now, and you promised that I should not haue it before Friday next? He said, that she knewe well enough. She said, she did not: then he told her that straungers were come, and now she must haue her fit to proue Agnes Samuel a Witch. Amongst other talke, the spirit told her againe, that there was a very sore wéeke of sicke fits to come ere it be long. She sayd, she cared not for it, for she hoped that God would stand with her then, as wel as he had done hitherto. As she sate thus in her fit talking with Smack, one of her sisters sate by her, (being in a very quiet fit also) on the suddaine she said: Sister Ioane, (for so was the children

name that sate by her) the thing telleth me that you shal haue a very sore fit by & by. The words were no sooner ended, but her sister fell into a marueilous sicke and troublesome fit, swelling and heaning in her bodie, groning and crying out as their manner was. Then M. Throckmorton, the childs father, called for Agnes Samuel & willed her to hold the child, for (said he) I think you are best worthie to haue the trouble of it. After the child had bẽn in her armes strugling & very troublesome a certaine space, her sister that before had foretold of ỹ sicke fit she had, spake, saying, Be of good comfort sister Iane, for the thing telleth me that the worst is past, & you shal be well by and by: for the thing saith, that Nan Samuel is wearie with holding of you, & therefore you shall be well, which presently proued true, for her troublesome fit then ended, & she continued in a very quiet fit as before. Presently vpon this M. Throckmorton, the childs father, tolde the other M. Throckmorton his cosin, what words his daughter Ioane before had spoken, namely, that when any strangers came, she should therevpon fall into her fit, and then if Nan Samuel should speake such and such words, she should come forth of her fit to proue her a Witch. M. Throckmorton the stranger earnestly desired to make proofe thereof: So the childes father bad Nan Samuel say after him, Euen as I am a Witch, & consented to the death of the Lady Cromwel, so I charge thee spirit to depart, and to let her be well. The mayde began to speake them, but either she could not, or else she would not speake them playne, but she would alwaies say, Consenting to our death of our Lady Crõwell, and she would not after three or foure times repeating ouer, speake the words plaine: so that she that was in her fit sayd, Here is something telleth me, that she will not speake them aright. In the ende after much adoe she spake them, and presently she came out of her fit, and was very well. The same words were vsed to another of them that then was in her fit, and preuailed as well with her as with her sister. The next day at dinner mistresse Elizabeth being in her fit, was pointed vnto to say grace, and when she had halfe gone through it, presently her mouth was shut vp that she could not finish it. Then Master Throckmorton called for Nan Samuel, and willed her to charge the Spirit to open her mouth againe, that she might finish her grace, which the maide did, and the child went through her grace to the end of it. And this you should haue seene in common vse amongst them, that if three or foure of them

them had stood together readie to say grace, you should haue séene them all taken suddainly in their fits one after the other as they had begun to speake, or at the furthest before they had spoken two lines, and their mouthes also shut vp, that they could not speake at all. Then Master Throckmorton laboured to teach Agnes Samuel a grace of two or three lines, but he could by no meanes get her to learne it by heart, although he caused his children to teach it her diuers times in a day. On Thursday following, which was the first of March, mistresse Mary, who had béen well and without any fits euer since the Sessions day last at Huntington, was something euill at ease all the morning, and about nine of the clocke fell into a marueilous great quaking and trembling, and could not hold a ioynt of her, yet knewe no cause why. Some after she was taken and fel into a marueilous troublesome fit, continuing therein about halfe an houre: in the ende she wared a little better, and sayd, Is it true: do you say, This is the day wherein I must scratch the young Witch? I am heartily glad of it, for I will surely pay her home both for my selfe and my sisters. Master Edward Pickering and Master Henry Pickering, two of the childs vncles standing by, with diuers others, caused the maide to be brought vp into the chamber where the child was, to sée what would be the issue of it, knowing very well that the maide was able to kéepe her selfe from scratching, if three such as the child was should set vpon her at once. So sone as the maide came into the chamber where the child was, the child sayd, Art thou come thou young Witch, who hast done all this mischiefe? The mayd séemed to stand amazed at those words, for she was not accustomed to heare any such hard spéeches from the childe. So one in the companie willed the maid to take vp the childe and carrie her downe (for her legges were taken from her.)

Mistresse Mary suffered her selfe very quietly to be taken vp in her armes, and clasped her hands about her necke, but euen as the maide began to lift her vp, she fell on scratching of her so eagerly and so fiercely, as that it was a wonder to all that sawe it, saying, I will scratch you, you yong witch, and pay you home for this punishing of me and my sisters: the thing telleth me, that I had béen well, and neuer should haue had my fits any more but for you. The maide stoode still holding downe her head (for the childe kneeled vpon her knées) and cried very pitifullie, yet either would not,

or could not once plucke away her head. Nay, saide the child, I knowe you crye, but the spirit sayd that I should not heare you, because I should not pitie you, and he it is that holdeth you now that you can not get away from me. So the child scratched her face vntill the skinne came off the breadth of a shilling, but there came no bloud at all but water. In the end the mayd brought her downe into the Parlour, where the child sitting a while in her stoole, séemed to bée wonderfull sorie for that she had done, and sayd, I would not haue scratched Nan Samuel, but the thing told me that I should doe it, and forced me thereunto, stretching forth mine armes, and strayning my fingers whether I would or not, and made me to scratch her. And truely they that sawe the manner of it, and knewe the mild disposition of the childe, might easily see that she was ouerruled in the action, for she was carried with such vehemencie and crueltie for the time, against the mayd, as that it appeared to bee altogether besides her nature. The child continued in her fit till an houre after dinner, and then being asked of these matters, was altogether ignorant of any such thing, and would not beléeue it, but when she sawe the example in the maides face, and being told that she had done it, she brake into teares, and was marueilous sorie to sée it.

The next day, being Friday, mistresse Mary was in a very mild and solemne fit all the morning, and a little before dinner she sayd to her selfe and her sisters that were also in their fits: I am glad and marueilous glad, but she would not tell the cause why. Presently she sayd to the thing that stood by her, But I know you will lye to me as you haue oftentimes done. Nay, sayd the thing, I vse not to lye. No doe, sayd she, who are you I pray you? The thing answered, Smack. What (sayd she) are you that Smack that vseth to come to my sister Ioane, and telleth her so many things? Yea, sayd he, saying further, that he neuer told her sister Ioane any lye hitherto, neither was this a lye that he told her. Then mistresse Mary declared to her sisters, being all in their fits, ỳ which Smacke had told her, which was, that after dinner she should come out of her fit, & neuer more haue any fit, because she had scratched Agnes Samuel. So her sisters wished that Smacke would come to them, and tell them the same. So after dinner she came forth of her fit, as she sayd, and neuer had more fits afterward from that day to this (thankes be to God.)

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The very same day being the second of Februarie mistresse Ioane fel in the morning into her fit, and being in her bed, it should seeme that Smack had been with her, and had told her something, as afterward shee did declare to her sisters, being in their fits: for shee said, I will get vp and goe downe, and tell some newes. When she was come down into the parlor, and had sate by the fire some little space, she spake on the suddaine to something that stood by her, saying: I will not vouchsafe to looke on you, for you neuer come but you bring some ill newes with you, for I was sick the last time you were here, and I marueil who sent for you now: The thing answered her, You were sick in deed the last time I was here, but now you shall be much worse. Why, doe your worst said she, for I passe not for you (seeming to speake very angerly to him) for God, said she, will preserue me, I feare you not. I maruell said she how your leg doth: I thinke Smacke spoke with you when hee brake your leg, said he, I pray you doe not tell Smacke that I was here: Do you pray me: said she, I doe not know that Smacke, but if I did, I would surely tell him, that he might breake your necke also. The thing answered, yes you know him well enough, for you made him breake my leg, but I would not for any thing, that he should know that I was here said the thing, but I wil make you pate for all this weeke that commeth in. Will you: saith she, I will lay with you what you wil, that I shal not be sick this weeke if I list, for one thing that I know. Yea saith hee, I know very well that Smacke was with you this morning, but doe both of you what you can, you shall haue a sicke weeke of it, and that you shall finde, for you shall be so sicke this next weeke, that your body shall bee sore all the next weeke after, for I will course you, aswell as Smacke hath coursed me. Why said she, do you reuenge your selfe vpon me and not vpon Smacke? Hee said that hee durst not deale with him, for he was to hard for him.

After a little silence betwixt them, shee asked her sisters, that were likewise in their fittes, if they did not see Catch who talked with her euen now: They answered no. Why then said she, belike he is gone, for neither doe I see him, then shee begun to talke very softly with them, as if no bodie should heare them, saying, That Smacke was with her in the morning when she was in her bed, and tolde her that this next weeke will be a marueilous sicke weeke to her, which he could not helpe, but he did so beate Pluck as

he told mée, that hee will neuer come at mée againe, and if euer hée commeth againe, then he saith he will kill him: but he said to me, if you will goe to some friendes house, and staie there all the weeke, then you shall be well, and escape this sicke weeke: but I tolde him said shee, that I had no friends house to goe vnto, nor to none I would go to, do he what he would, then he willed me to go to Sommersom (which is a towne two miles from Warboys, where sometimes she hath béen, with an vncle of hers, since her first visitation in this sorte and béen very well) but I maruell said shee, how hee knoweth Sommersom, I think he knoweth all the Countrey ouer, but I told him that I would not once stirre my foote out of the doore for him, doe he what he could. Then her sisters asked when Smack would come againe. She said, that he told her, that he would come some at night after supper. In the meane time certaine strangers came in, who were desirous to see her out of her fit, which was done by the charge of Agnes Samuel: Namely, as she was a Witch and consented to the death of the Lady Crumwel, &c. At night a little before supper she fell into her fit againe, and so continued til supper was ended. When the company were risen from the boord, and set by the fire, Smack came to her againe, and talked with her about those fits, which she should haue the next weék, saying that he could not doe withall, except she would goe from home. She said that she would not, and therefore willed him to doe his worst. Then said he, when was Catch with you? She told him that Catch was there to day, and threatned to punish her the next weék with wonderfull sick fits, because he said, that I had caused you to breake his leg, but I hope said she, that you wil breake his neck also, and some body will breake yours, for you are all naught. Smack answered, that he would course Catch for it, and warrant her that hee would neuer come againe to her when he had done with him. Then said she, tell me when shall my fits begin, and when shall they end? He said, that on munday next in the morning they must begin, and end that day sennight in the morning. You will haue a whole weék belike (said she) yea said he, it must be so, & you shal be fore in your body the next weeke after. On Saterday which was the next day, she had diuers fits, and was brought out of them by Agnes Samuels charge, & so likewise on the Sunday. When Munday came which was the day appointed for the beginning of these troublesome fits, it kept promise with her, for in the morning she ware marueilous

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ſicke and euill at eaſe, hauing her perfect ſences, as it was alſo fore-told that ſhe ſhould haue, and ſo continued all the weeke: the maner whereof, hereafter ſhall bee declared, becauſe certaine accidents worthy the remembrance befell ſome other of her ſiſters in this weeke, which ſhall firſt haue their place.

Miſtreſſe Elizabeth one of theſe children and before ſpoken of, was all this weeke troubled with very ſodaine and extraordinarie fits, for ſhe was twitched and wrong in her body more grieuouſly this weeke, then ſhe was many moneths before, which violent paſſions in her made vs coniecture, that there was ſome extraordinary matter in working: for it could not be that ſuch violence ſhould continue long, for if it had, it could not but haue coſt her her life. And to paſſe ouer many matters of ſtrangeneſſe, which befell in that weeke, wee will come to Saterday which was the tenth of March: on which day as this child ſate at ſupper, it ſhould ſeeme by the manifold ſignes ſhe made with her handes and head, and by her humming with her voyce, that ſhee would faine haue ſpoken to ſomething that ſtood on the table, but ſhe could not, her mouth was ſhut vp. Then ſhee began to lament marueilous bitterly a good ſpace, yet could not declare her griefe. Soone after, ſhee fell into a moſt troubleſome fit, which would not ſuffer her to ſit on her ſtoole. Then the maide Agnes Samuel, was willed to hold her, which ſhee did: and after a while ſhee beganne to growe more quiet. And another of her ſiſters younger then ſhee, Grace by name, was more troubled then ſhee was, ſo Nan Samuel ſet downe the one, and tooke vp the other, and as ſhee was holding this Miſtreſſe Grace in her armes, the other childe miſtreſſe Elizabeth that ſate hard by her, ſaid on the ſudden in a marueilous anger to her, now I can ſee the young Witch which I could neuer doe before ſince ſhee came to the houſe in my fit. The company that ſate at ſupper, thought that there was ſome extraordinary matter in working, that the childe ſhould call the yong maid Witch, for it was neuer heard by any body, that euer ſhee gaue either her or her mother, any euill word before, either in her fit or out of her fit: preſently ſhe ſaid to her, my ſiſter Ioanes diuell told mee euen now as I ſate at ſupper, that I muſt ſcratch the yong Witch. So ſoone as euer ſhe had ſaid ſo, ſhee ſlipped from the bench whereon ſhe ſate, and fell vpon her knees, for ſhe was not able to ſtãd, & caught ỹ maide by ỹ hand that ſtood hard by her, holding of her ſiſter, & ſcratched one of her hands

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moſt fiercely to ſée, with both her hands, and ſaying that it was ſhe that had bewitched her and all her ſiſters, and ſhee had béen well long ſince but for her. O thou yong Witch, O thou yong Witch, fie vpon thee, fie vpon thee, who euer heard of a young Witch before: and thus ſhee cryed with ſuch vehemencie of ſpéech, and eagernelle of ſcratching, as that both her breath and ſtrength fayled her. When ſhe had breathed a while, ſhe fell vpon her againe, and ſaid that this was her ſiſter Ioanes diuell who vſeth not to lye, that made her to ſcratch her, for ſaid ſhee, I would not haue ſcratched you, and it was full euill againſt my wil to doe it, but the diuel maketh me to ſcratch you, ſtretching forth mine armes, and bending my fingers, otherwiſe I would not doe it, but I muſt doe it, and ſo muſt all my ſiſters ſcratch you, though they bee neuer ſo vnwilling to doe it, as my ſelfe now am, theſe words ſhe vttered and many moe, to the like effect, in that time whercin ſhe ſcratched her. All this time the maide held the other childe in her armes ſtill, neuer once offering to pluck away her hand from her, but cried out very pittifully, deſiring the Lorde to thinke vpon her. Then did one that ſtood by, demaund of her, and willed her to ſpeake her minde as ſhe thought, whether the childe did ſcratch her of her owne will and deſire or not. She anſwered, that ſhe thought ſhe did not, nay ſaith ſhee, I knowe ſhee did not, and that it is no part of her will thus to ſcratch me. The childe when ſhee was wearie the ſecond time with ſcratching of her, on the ſuddaine put forth both her handes, and ſaide looke you here, the diuell ſaith, that I muſt ſcratch her no more now, for my fingers are thruſt foorth ſo ſtraight, that I cannot bend them, and ſo it appeared that they were, for ſhee held foorth her hand, and her fingers were verie ſtraight and ſtiffe, then ſhee rubbed her hand vpon the maides hand that bled a little, and wiped the blood vpon her owne hands, and this the childe did oftentimes, while ſhee talked with her. Preſently vpon the ſcratching ended, the childe beganne to weepe, inſomuch that many teares fell from her eyes, and cryed marueilous bitterly, and ſaid to the maide, I would not in any wiſe haue ſcratched you, but the diuell made mee, and forced mee whether I would or not, oh that you neuer had deſerued to bée thus vſed, and her manner of complaining was, as if ſhee had committed ſome great offence. When this weeping fit was ſomething aſſwaged, ſhee beganne to exhort her, lifting vp her voyce with

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such vehemencie and desire for her amendment, as that wee may verily thinke, the like was neuer heard to come foorth of a childes mouth. It is not possible to set downe all the words of exhortation she spake vnto the maide at that time, but these were some of them, and the verie words so neere as could bee remembred. Oh that thou hadst grace to repent thée of thy wickednesse, that thy soule might be saued: for thou hast forsaken thy God, and giuen thy selfe to the diuel. Oh that thou diddest knowe what a precious thing thy soule was, thou wouldst neuer then so lightly haue parted with it: thou hadst néede to pray night and day, to get Gods fauour againe, otherwise thy soule shal be damned in hel fire for euer. Thou doest oftentimes pray here at home, when we pray, and likewise at Church, but thou prayest in vaine, because thou prayest not with thy heart, but I will pray for thee with all mine heart, and I will forgiue thee, and desire all my sisters, and all my friends to forgiue thée, if thou wilt confesse thy fault, but thou hast an hard heart (said she) and the diuel holdeth thy heart, and will not suffer thée to confesse it, but thou must confesse it whether thou wilt or no, when thy time is come. But oh that thou wouldest now confesse it, that thy soule might be saued. These words when she vsed them (as she did often) shee would three times at the least repeate them ouer, with such vehemẽcy, as that it was strange to heare, for she would neuer leaue vttering of them so long as her breath would serue. Then did she tel her my sister Ioanes diuel standeth here before my face, and pointed with her finger to the place, and telleth me that in despight of thée thou shalt one day confesse it, or else thou shalt bee hanged, for before thou doest confesse it, or be hanged, wee shall not be well: but if thou wouldest euen now confesse it, we shall be presently wel, defie now therefore the diuell, and confesse it, that God may forgiue thee, and that thy soule may be saued. If thou wouldst thinke (said shee) of the torments of hell, and that thy soule must burne in hell fire, except thou dost confesse and repent, then thou wouldst not now stand so stiffely in the deniall of it as thou doest: but thou art a wicked child, and thou hast bẽn a Witch this foure or fiue yeares and more, thou hast done more hurt then to mee and my sisters, for thou hast killed my Ladie Crumwel and moe. The diuell that standeth here telleth me so, and thou wouldest haue killed my sister Ioane in this her sick wéeke, but God wil not let thée, what a wicked heart hast thou that nothing will content thée but

our death, thou, and thy father (said shee) were the cause why thy mother did denie that, which she did once confesse, shee was in a good way, and would neuer haue gone frō her words, had not you and your father bēen, and if your mothers soule be damned, you and your father must answere for it, with many such like spæches, for your mother (sayd she) had confessed a truth, and was sory for her naughtinesse, euery body had forgiuen her, and would haue prayed for her: oh that she had neuer gone home, that her soule might haue bēene saued, thy mother is a Witch, thy father is a Witch, and thou art a Witch, but of all the thrée thou art the worst. Thy mother would neuer haue done so much hurt as she hath done, but for thée, and so the diuell hath tolde me, thou wicked childe, thou art a wicked child, the Lord giue thée grace to confesse, and to repēt that thy soule may be saued. Oh that thy father were nowe here, for ỳ diuel now saith that I should scratch him also, he is a witch & a naughtie man, Oh that he were here, that he might heare me now speake to him. Thē two of the childes Vncles, M. Iohn Pickering, and M. Henry Pickering, being there present were intreated of the childes father to sée if they could by any meanes, procure olde Samuel to come to the house, but it was thought by the company to be a labour lost before they went, the mā was of so churlish a nature, and alwaies so hardly drawen to the house: notwithstanding they went, and when they had gone twentie paces from the house, they did perceiue the same man to be comming alone very fast towards the house, so they agrēd to passe by him in silence, to sée whether he ment to goe, the man went directly to M. Throckmortons house, which they perceiuing, followed him backe againe, and were as ready to goe into the house as hee, when they were come into the hal, and were euen at the dore ready to goe into the parlour where the child and the other company were: the childe sayth of her selfe, he is come, he is come, I will goe scratch him, so shee prested forwards on her knées (for she had no vse of her legges) towards the parlour dore as if she would goe to him, yet this is most certaine, that she was then in such a place of the parlour as that shee could not sée any part of the hall, and therefore not the man. Then M. Doctor Dorington being in presence, perceiuing the childe so to goe on her knées, stayed her, and caused the man to be called into the parlour, when he came in, she still presed to goe towards him, and saide I must scratch him, I must scratch him, on the sodayne shée

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stopped, saying, I must not scratch him, loke you here, and shewed her hands how her fingers were shut vp close together, if he had béen here euen now (sayth she) the diuell sayth I should haue scratched him, but now I must not. Then Master Throckmorton, the childs father, demaunded of the man Iohn Samuel, why he came to his house: he answered that one in ỹ field told him that his daughter was sicke and therefore he came. Then Master Throckmorton and Master Doctor Dorington charged him to tell the trueth who it was and not to lye, as hée would answere it: he answered that he would not tell them, notwithstanding they vrged him: at length he sayd, that his brothers daughter came to his house and told him, that she saw master Doctor Dorington & maistr Throckmortons man come to this house together, and then he thinking that there was some thing to doe about his daughter, came therefore to sée the matter: but this was thought of the companie to be no sufficient cause to bring him to the house, whereas before hee could not be gotten to come without a precept from the Iustices. The childe continued still crying out vpon him and sayd, that he was a naughtie man, and a Witch, and but for him and his daughter, his wiues soule might haue béen saued, and therefore he must answere for it before GOD one day, and so repeated ouer againe many of her spéeches to him, which before shee had said to his daughter, exhorting him to prayers, and to aske God forgiuenes. The man was so rude in his behauiour, and so lowde in his spéeches, that the child could not be heard for him: His answers to the childe were, that she lyed, and so did all the companie, in saying hee was a Witch, and he sayd that she had béen taught her lessons well enough, and that she was aboue seuen yeares olde, (though indéede she was not twice seuen) with many such like spéeches, and would not bee silent, nor suffer the childe to speake for any thing vntill he was almost forced vnto it by the childes father, although he might perceiue very well, as also did all the companie, that the childe could not heare him, nor answere to any of his spéeches, neither yet stayed her wordes at his talking, in any thing she intended to speake to him, although he greatly interrupted the same, if she could haue heard him, but shée neither heard him nor anie other in the companie, yet shée saw him and his daughter, and not anie other. Towards the ende when the childe had thus exhorted the father and the daughter for the space of an houre and

an halfe, master Throckmorton, the childes father, tolde the man Iohn Samuel, that his daughter Agnes, by a charge which she had, commaunded the Spirites to depart from his children, and they had departed, he therefore willed him to vse the same words which his daughter before had vsed, to see what would come of it: hee sayd that he would not, neither should any make him to speake them, and he would not be brought to it for any thing. Then did master Throckmorton tell him, that seeing he came to his house vnsent for, he should not depart vntill he had spoken them, so long as the child continued in her fit, if it were this weeke before she came forth. Then did master Doctor Dorington (the rather to bring him on) speake the words before him, so did also two or three of his neighbours, honest men in the towne, that were then present and sawe all these matters in the childe, but this would not perswade the man, vntill in the ende hé perceiued that master Throckmorton was resolute, not to suffer him to depart vntil he had spoken them, then he begun to speake them as he was taught by master Throckmorton, the words were these: As I am a Witch, and consenting to the death of the Ladie Cromwell, so I charge the spirit to depart from Mistresse Elizabeth Throckmorton at this present, and to suffer her to be well. The man had no soner spoken the words, but the childe presently arose, and was very well, marueiling to see such companie there. Then was the child asked if she knew of any thing which she had done or sayd, and diuers particulars were named vnto her, but she knew of no such thing, saying that she had béen a sléepe, and was readie to weepe because they charged her with such things: so the companie departed, and she went to bed, being very well.

It now followeth to declare how mistresse Ioane Throckmorton was handled in this present weeke past, which was that sicke weeke of fittes threatned to her before by the Spirit. On Sunday which was the day before, she was lightsome, and had no fit at all, saying that she was very well, yet no bodie would tell her of the sicke fits which was threatned to befall her the next day: so she went to bed very merrie and chearefull, saying, that she ayled nothing at all, she thanked GOD. The next morning which was Munday, when she awakened there was found a great change in her, for then she complayned of euerie part of her bodie, saying, that she was marueilous full of payne, especially in her head and sto-

stomack, and that there was some thing vnder her sides which did so twitch and wring her, that she could not fetch her breath. All that day, as likewise all ỹ weeke following she was most strangely tormented, crying out of extreame payne in all parts of her, her stomack was taken from her, so that she eate al that weeke scarcely so much as might be thought sufficient to sustaine nature, her legs were exceeding sore and full of payne, hauing little or no vse of them all that weeke, her hands were continually cold & benummed, but her greatest and continuall payne lay in her head, which caused her to take marueilous vnquiet rest, for she did nothing but crie and grone the most part of the nights throughout that weeke, neither resting her selfe nor suffering any others to rest that lay neere her. Now besides this generall and continuall payne in her body, she had diuers fits euery day, and likewise in the night time, such as wherein no man that sawe her, thought she should haue escaped with her life: for she would lye vpon her bed scriching and suddenly starting an houre together, and sometimes foure or fiue houres without any intermission, otherwhiles she would lye as one in a swoune or trance, holding her breath a quarter of an houre and sometimes longer, in such sort as that it could neither bee felt nor perceiued that she breathed at all for the time, yet in the end she would arise vp with her belly, and fetch a marueilous deepe sigh, & a lowd doleful grone, as if she had bin gasping for her last breath: and this kinde of fit was most vsuall with her night and day, and would hold her the longest of any other, & alwaies the longer whē any of her friends or other company stoode by and comforted her: sometimes it would rise vp into her head, and there resting a while it would rayse vp her body, and her head very strongly, vntill almost she stoode vpright, yet with such strength, as that it was not possible for any man to hold her downe. In which fit she was desirous to haue her head holden, otherwise shee saide that it would riue her head in sunder, and alwayes a little before shee felt the fit comming, she would say hold, and all the while she was in rising with her body, it would hold her breath, vntil she came to the highest, and then would she fetch a great groane, and with a sodaine downefall settle her self in the chaire againe, and howsoeuer al the weeke she was in this continual daunger, and had her life in her hands euery houre ready to yeeld it vp, yet on Saturday all the day long, but especially in the night she was in the greatest hazard ther-

of, for then did her parents, and other that wished well vnto her, think that she should neuer haue seen the day light: such and so many were her extreame fits & dangerous perplexities in that night, but it pleased God, a little before morning to giue her some better rest, and this was some good hope, and comfort that her parents and other her friends had in respect of the safety of her life, for that both she her selfe, and other also of her sisters had heretofore sayde being in their fits, that Nan Samuel would haue had the diuell to kill her this weeke, as she hath done the Lady Crumwel, but God wil not suffer him. But in al these extremities this is most certain, that all the weeke long she had the perfect vse of her sences as the spirite had told her that she should haue, and was able to discerne one thing from another, and to make answere to any question that was asked at any time (except then when her breath was stopped and while she continued as one in a swoune:) but being asked afterwards if she thē heard, she answered that she did alwaies heare, but she could not sometimes speake, because her breath was stopped. And this was a thing noted in her that weeke, that shee could neuer abide that Nan Samuel should abide in her company, or come into her sight, or once to heare her named, yet she would say, that she could not tell for what cause it was, but it should seeme there was some secret matter in it, for whensoeuer, and how long soeuer she stayed with her she was alwaies the more strongly delt withall and the more grieuously troubled.

When the sennight was ended, and Munday morning came againe, she sayd that she felt her self reasonable well, and all that day she had no fit at all, onely she sayd, that shee was very sore in her body and in her legs, as if she had been beaten with strokes. Al this weeke following she continued reasonable well, yet not without many fits and great sorenes in her legs, especially towards night, as it was common with them all to be alwaies worst at night.

On Munday after that which was the nintēnth of March a little before supper she fell into her fit, and when supper was ended, Smack came vnto her againe, to whom she presently sayd, I trust God will one day reuenge me on you, and all your company, for thus punishing of me and my Sisters: why sayd he, had you a sick weeke of it? It is no matter to you said she: why I tolde you said he, that I could not helpe it, except you woulde haue gone abroad to some friends house: goe you, sayd she, whether you will, and do

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what you can, I will not stur my foote out of dores for your pleasure, for I know you would kill me if you could, and you vse al the meanes you can both to kill me and my sisters, but I trust GOD will not giue you leaue, and if he doth I am well contented withall, for I had rather bee dead then to liue in this continuall paine, and not able to stand or goe: many moe such like spæches they had together, anon she sayd, you haue often times tolde mee, that I should scratch the young witch before the Assises, now tel me when shall it be: For I would faine scratch her, I cannot abide her now of late, whatsoeuer the matter is, I think God hath set my heart against her, for I cannot eate my meate, if shee stande before me, it so goeth against my stomacke, and yet I cannot tell wherefore, but tel me said she, on what day shall I scratch her: he told her that she should scratch her two or thræe dayes before the Assises: tell me said she, on which day shall it be: For I will neuer beléeue you: hée told her that it should be on Munday before the Assises which was that day fortnight: well said she, loke that it be, for I will kéepe my nailes vnpared for her, I will scratch one side for my selfe said she, and the other for my Aunt Pickering, this her Aunt is wife to M. Iohn Pickering of Ellington in the countie of Huntington, who was one of the twelue, that were bewitched, and hath bëen most grieuously tormented with paine and breaking out in her legs, as that shée is not able to go. Well said Mistresse Ioane to Smacke, I will surely lay it on whensoeuer I scratch her, that all the world may sée that she is a Witch. Then said Smack, they that thinke otherwise of her are deceiued, and that I will proue: will you proue it, said she: how will you proue it: By compelling you to scratch her. Will you compel me, said she: why then I wil not scratch her. But you shall scratch her said he: so they had many words about it, in the end she said that indéede she had a good will to scratch her, but yet shée will not scratch her if shee can otherwise chose, but Smacke saide that she must scratch her as well as her other sisters had done and must doe, for there are yet two behinde that must scratch her. When they had ended their talke, she called for Agnes Samuel and said that she should not come forth of her fit, vntill she had charged the spirit to depart, which the maid did, and she was presently wel. Within 2. daye after, Mistris Grace, the yongest of all those fiue sisters, as shee sate in the maides armes, in a very troublesome fit, on the sodaine fell on scratching of the maids hand,

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marueilons fiercely to ſée, but was not able to ſpeake, her mouth was ſhut vp: yet did ſhe grone and wéepe greatly as if ſhe had bin doing of ſome thing againſt her wil, but ſuch was the childes ſhort nailes and want of ſtrength, that ſhe could not once ripple the ſkin of the back of her hands. Of this childe there are not many things noted, becauſe for the moſt part her mouth was ſhut vp during the time of her fits, yet had ſhe very many moſt grieuous & troubleſom fits: for ſhe hath ſit in a chaire, or on a ſtoole by the fire ſide, ſome times a whole day together, groning and wéeping moſt lamentable to ſée, and was neuer cleare from her fits ſince the firſt beginning.

On the next Sabbaoth day which was the 25. of March at night when ſupper was ended, Miſtreſſe Ioan fell into her fit, as ſhe had many fits that wéeke, but Smack neuer came vnto her to talke vntill now: So it ſhould ſéeme that he talked with her a good while before ſhe would either ſéeme to liſten, or giue anſwere to him, yet it might eaſily bée perceiued by her countenance and geſture that ſome thing talked with her, for ſhe would turne away her face and ſhake her head, as if ſhe liked not of it: on the ſodaine ſhée ſayd go to, if this be true that you ſay, let vs ſée what you will doe. So miſtris Ioane called for her ſiſter Elizabeth who was likewiſe in her fit, and told her that Smack was come, and will now tell her many things before Nan Samuels face: Smack, ſaith ſhe, calleth her nothing but yong Witch to begin withall, belike he is angry with her: Therfore ſhe called for Nan Samuel, and told her that ſhe muſt be preſent and heare what Smack will ſay to her, yet ſayth ſhee I cannot heare you, but I can ſée you: By and by ſhe ſayd Smacke ſayth that you muſt ſay theſe words, and I ſhal preſently come forth of my fit, but I ſhall fall into it agayne, and ſhall haue many fits to night, and come forth of them againe at your ſpéeches, the words which the mayde muſt firſt ſpeake are theſe: As I am a Witch and would haue bewitched Miſtris Ioan Throckmorton to death in her laſt wéeke of great ſickneſſe, ſo I charge the ſpirit to depart and to ſuffer her to be well at this preſent: So ſoone as ſhe had vttered them, Miſtris Ioan came preſently out of her fit and was well, and being ready to ariſe ſhe ſodainely fell downe into her fit gaine, ſo reſting a while ſhee ſayde to her, the thing ſaith that you muſt ſay, as I am a Witch, and haue bewitched Miſtris Pickering of Ellington ſince my mother hath confeſſed, ſo to charge

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the spirit to departe from me, and I shall be well, for the thing saith (said she) that mine Aunt Pickering should haue béene well before this time, had not you bewitched her againe since your mother confessed. Alas good Aunt Pickering (sayd she) what harme haue you done to any of them that they should vse you in this sort, and with that she fell into bitter weeping for her, insomuch that they that stode by could not refraine from teares, when she had done weeping, she willed the mayde to vse that charge, after which vsed she was wel, but did not long so continue, for she was straight way in her fit againe: then sayd Mistresse Ioane to the mayde, the spirit saith that you must say, as I would haue bewitched Mistresse Ioan Throckmorton lame, since I could not bewitch her to death, as I would haue done in her last weeke of great sickines, so charge the spirit to depart from me, and I shall be well, and presently fall into my fit againe, all which was then done, and presently found true: Then sayd mistresse Ioan, the spirit saith that you haue bewitched all my sisters ouer againe, since your mother confessed, or else they had been now well, and to proue this to be true, you must charge the spirit to depart from me as you haue bewitched them al seuerally, and I must haue so many seuerall fits, and come out of them at your seueral charges, so the mayd begun with them one after the other, saying, as I haue bewitched Mistris Mary Throckmorton since my mother confessed, so I charge the spirit to depart from you, and after her went to the rest of her sisters: so Mistresse Ioan had foure seuerall fits, and came forth of them at foure seuerall charges (concerning the bewitching of her sisters) which the mayde vsed to her. Then sayd mistresse Ioan, the spirite saith, that now I must also start and struggle, and be pained in my body as well as my sister Iane is, whensoeuer you (speaking to the maide) shall name GOD, or Iesus Christ, or any good worke, although I cannot heare you, yet he doth heare you, and hee will make me starte. Then M. Throckmorton, with others that were then in companie, perceiuing the spirite to be willing to declare so many things of the mayde, willed her to charge the spirite in the name of God to answere her to certaine questions, which shee should aske it and not to lye, the mayde gaue that charge to the spirite, the spirit sayd to Mistresse Ioan, the young witch (for so hee in all this talke and speech, hath called her) chargeth me to tell the trueth in certaine questions which she shall aske me. I, sayd Mistresse

ſtreſſe Ioan, and ſée that you doe tell the truth, and not lye in any one thing, the ſpirit anſwered that he doth not vſe to tell ſo many lyes, as the young witch doth, which wordes Miſtreſſe Ioan repeated ouer after the ſpirit. Then ſayd M. Throckmorton to the maid, charge the ſpirite to tell you in what parte of your body Miſtreſſe Ioan ſhall ſcratch you, which the maid did, and the ſpirit ſaid to Miſtreſſe Ioan, the young witch would know in what part of her body you ſhal ſcratch her: Yea ſayd Miſtris Ioan, in what part of her bodie ſhal I ſcratch her, the ſpirit anſwered, you ſhal ſcratch her on her face, the right chéeke for your ſelfe, and the left for your Aunt Pickering of Ellington: thē ſaid Miſtris Ioan, I wil ſurely ſcratch the left chéeke well for mine Aunt if that will doe her any good, howſoeuer I doe for my ſelfe: yea ſayd the ſpirit doe ſo, and the young witch were as good to take it patiently at the firſt, for you ſhall haue your pennyworth of her before you haue done: Then the mayd was willed to aſke the ſpirit whether her mother would confeſſe at the Aſſiſes, all that ſhe hath already confeſſed: the ſpirit ſayde the young witch aſketh &c. the anſwere which the ſpirite made to this queſtion was, that the olde witch would confeſſe al againe at the Aſſiſes, if ſhe had no euil counſell, and confeſſe alſo that this young witch her daughter, is a worſe witch then her ſelfe, for ſaid the ſpirit to Miſtreſſe Ioan, (which wordes ſhe did in order repeate after the ſpirit) when the old witch had bewitched the Lady Crumwel, and would haue vnwitched her againe and could not, ſhe put it to her husband, and bade him help her, and when he could not, he put it to this young witch his daughter, and when ſhe could not help her neither, then ſhe counſelled her mother to kil her. And to proue ſayth the ſpirit to Miſtreſſe Ioan, that all this is true, whēſoeuer any ſtrangers come to this houſe before the Aſſiſes, you ſhal fall into your fit, and you ſhall haue thrée ſeuerall fittes, and ſhall come out of them at thrée ſeuerall charges by the young witch: the firſt charge that ſhe muſt vſe is, as ſhe is a witch, & a worſer witch then her mother in conſenting to the death of the Ladie Crumwel, ſo I charge the ſpirite to depart, and you ſhall be well: the ſecond is, as ſhee hath bewitched Miſtreſſe Pickering of Ellington ſince her mother confeſſed: and the third is as ſhe would haue bewitched Miſtreſſe Ioan Throckmorton to death, in her laſt weéke of great ſickneſſe, after which you ſhall be well: So the mayde vſed thoſe thrée ſeuerall charges to Miſtreſſe Ioan at that time, and

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she came forth of three seuerall fittes, and presently fell into her fitte againe. Then the mayd was willed to aske the spirite whether Mistresse Ioan should haue these fits before the Lord Iudge, if she were carryed to the Assises: the spirit sayd to Mistresse Ioan, the young witch would know &c. yea said Mistresse Ioan, whether shall I haue my fits before the Lord Iudge or not: the spirite answered that she should haue her fits vpon the Assises day before the Iudges, and all the fits that euer she hath had heretofore, then was the maid willed to aske whether mistris Ioan should haue any moe fits after the Assises, the spirit answered to Mistresse Ioan in the same sorte which he vsed before, that she should neuer haue any fits after the Assises, and that neither this younge Witch, nor her mother, nor any kinne of them all should bee able to hurt her after the Assises day. Then the mayd was willed to aske the same question for her sisters how they should doe after the Assises, the spirite said that he would not answere to that question, saying that her sister Ianes spirit should declare that thing, then the mayde was willed to aske the spirite howe many spirites her mother had at the first, and the names of them all seuerally, and which euery one of the children had at that time of diuiding of the. The spirit (repeating euer the mayds words vnto Mistresse Ioan) answered directly, that the old woman had nine spirites, and she had them of a strange man, who was now dead, and his name hee will not tell. The names of the spirits were these (as after Mistresse Ioan vnderstode the question, then she followed it, demanding her selfe of the spirit what shee thought good.) Where were three which were called by the name of Smackes, the fourth Pluck, the fift, Blew, the first, Catch, the seuenth, White, the eighth, Callico, the ninth, Hardname. Mistresse Ioan Throckmorton had himselfe, who was the first of the Smackes, Mistresse Mary had his cosin Smacke, Mistresse Elizabeth Throckmorton had his other cosin Smacke, Mistresse Iane had Blew, Mistresse Grace had White, & the olde woman had Hardname still with her in the Gayle, and what was become of the rest he could not tell. Then the mayde was willed to aske whether the olde woman did reward them with anie thing or not, the spirit answered that shee did reward them euery day with blood from her chin, saying further that her kinne did once bleede of it selfe to proue her a Witch, when she desired God to shew some signe thereof. Then mistris Ioan her selfe asked the

spirite whether the man (Iohn Samuel) was a Witch or not: The spirit answered that he was a Witch, and would be a worse then either this young Witch is, or the olde Witch her mother was, when they two are hanged, for then all the spirites will come to him, and he will doe more hurt then any haue yet done, for saith the spirit, he hath already bewitched a man and a woman, and to proue this, if the young witch shall charge the diuel to depart from you at this present, euen as her father hath bewitched two parties, you shall be presently well: so Nan Samuel did, and Mistresse Ioan was well, and fel into her fit againe: then mistresse Ioan asked the spirit, who those two were that the man had bewitched: The spirite answered that he would not tell, except the young witch went out of the Parlour, for shée must not heare, so Mistresse Ioan willed Nan Samuel to goe out of the Parlour, and the spirite sayde, let her bée watched, that shée doe not heare when she is gone. The spirit told mistresse Ioan that it was Chappel, and his wife, which two parties were the olde mans nert neighbours, and were at some variance, and contention with him, and did greatly suspect themselues of such a matter, for they were both of them a little before that time marueilously troubled with bleach, the woman not able to stirre her selfe, and the man was for a fit or two in the same case that these children were in, yet sayd the thing, if Chappel will beate the olde witch well, hée may peraduenture neuer bée more troubled with him. The olde witch, saide the spirite would once haue broken his necke by giuing him a fall vpon the cauzie in the stréete, as he met him, for he caused on the sodain both his Pattens to be broken, & if he had fallen on the stones, as he fell in the myre, he had béene maymed: this last poynt of Chappels fall was not knowen to any in the house at that time, and mistresse Ioan being asked of the same when she came forth of her fit, said that she neuer heard of any such thing: but when it was inquired of Chappel, hée confessed that he had once such a fall, as he met with old Samuel in the stréetes, and both his Pattens were broken at one instant, and because he would not fall vpon the cauzie on the stones, he cast himself in the falling besides the cauzie (for it was but narrow) into the myre, wherein he was marueilously foyled, and if another neighbour had not béen with him, he had béen in greater danger.

This tale was tolde by the spirite to Mistresse Ioan, and Mistris Ioan by repeating the spirites wordes declared to them that

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ſtood by, then the mayd was called into the parlour again, and willed to aſke the ſpirite, whether Miſtreſſe Ioane ſhould bée well in the way that ſhe went to the Aſſiſes or not, and whether ſhe ſhould be better at the Aſſiſes then at home. The ſpirit anſwered, that ſhe ſhould be better there then at home, but it ſhould be worſe for the young Witch, if miſtreſſe Ioane went, and ſhe ſhould bee well all the way ſhe went, vntill ſhe had taken her chamber, and then ſhe ſhould fall into her fit: how true all this fell out, you ſhall heare hereafter. The Spirit told her then againe, that ſhe ſhould haue thrée ſeuerall fits vpon the Aſſiſes day, and the yong Witch muſt bring her out of them, by thrée ſeuerall charges: The firſt muſt be as ſhe is a worſer Witch then her mother in bewitching the Ladie Cromwell to death: The ſecond, as ſhe hath bewitched miſtreſſe Pickering of Ellington, ſince her mother confeſſed: And the third, as ſhe would haue bewitched miſtreſſe Ioane Throckmorton to death in her laſt wéeke of great ſickneſſe: and the Spirit ſayd all this is true, and ſhall be proued true hereafter, and in token thereof you (ſpeaking to miſtreſſe Ioane) ſhall be very well all the day to morrow, and haue neuer a fit, let the young Witch doe what ſhe can, except ſome ſtraunger come, and then you muſt haue thrée ſeuerall fits to proue her a Witch, and ſo you ſhall haue them whenſoeuer any ſtraungers come: but this ſayth the thing of himſelfe (ſpeaking to miſtreſſe Ioane) you muſt remember in any caſe to pare your nayles when you haue ſcratched the young Witch. Why muſt I doe ſo ſayd ſhe? Becauſe, ſayd he, the young Witches bloud will ſticke on your nayles, and you muſt burne her bloud, leaſt you bee worſe afterwards. Why (ſayd Miſtreſſe Ioane) put you me in minde of it if I chance to forget it? ſo I will ſayd he: then the Spirit departed, and miſtreſſe Ioane ſayd that ſhe muſt not come forth of her fit, except Nan Samuel helpe her out by one of her charges, which ſhe did, and then ſhe went to bed béeing very well, and the next day continued without any fits at all, neither came there any ſtraungers to the houſe. On Tueſday following there came maſter Doctor Dorington, and with him one of his brothers, maſter Iohn Dorington a Londoner: preſently after their comming into the houſe miſtreſſe Ioane fell into her fit. Then did they call for the mayd Nan Samuel, and one of the companie willed her to ſay the Lords prayer, and her Beléefe, which ſhe did, and whenſoeuer ſhe named God, or Ieſus Chriſt, or the holy Ghoſt,

mistresse Ioane did marueilously start and struggle at it, so that she could scarcely sit vpon her stole: and in the ende the maid brought her out of her fit thrée seuerall times, by her thrée seuerall charges as the spirit before had sayd.

The next straungers that came to the house were master Henry Cromwell, one of Sir Henry Cromwels sonnes, and with him one of Sir Henrie his men, and this was vpon Thursday following being the 29. of March, when they came into the house mistresse Ioane was wel, but they had not stayed there a quarter of an houre but she fell into her fitte, and was very shrewdly handled before them as was also her sister Iane, whensoeuer the mayde named God, or Christ Iesus, and in the ende she was brought out of her fit thrée seuerall times, by thrée seuerall charges as before: many straungers in that weeke came to the house, and she had these seuerall fits as you shall heare on Munday following which was the day appoynted for scratching. Mistresse Ioane fell into her fit a little before supper, and so continued al supper time, not being able to stand on her legges: so soone as thanksgiuing after supper was beginning to bee sayd, she start vp vpon her feete and came to the table side, and stood with her sisters that were saying of grace, and presently when grace was ended she fell vpon the maide Nan Samuel, and toke her head vnder her armes, and first scratched the right side of her cheeke, and when she had done that, now (said she) I must scratch the left side for mine Aunt Pickering, and scratcht that also vntill bloud came forth of both sides very aboundantly: the maide stode stone still, and neuer once moued to goe from her, yet cried very pitifully, desiring the Lord to be mercifull vnto her: when she had done scratching, mistresse Ioane set her selfe vpon a stole, and fared as though she had been out of breath, for shée toke her winde marueilous thicke, yet the mayde neuer strugled with her, & was able to hold neuer a ioynt of her, but trembled as it had been a leafe, and called for a pare of sheeres to paire her nayles, but when she had them she was not able to hold them in her hands, so she desired some bodie to doe it for her: then M. Doctor Doringtons wife who was her Aunt, standing by her toke the sheeres & pared her nayles, but mistresse Ioane her selfe saued the nayles as her fingers were pared, and when she had done threw them into the fire, and called for some water to wash her hands, which after she had done, she threw the water also into the fire: when this was

done

done this mistresse Ioane fell vpon her knées, and willed the mayde to come and knéele downe by her, and to pray with her, they sayd the Lords prayer together and likewise the Créede, but it should séeme that mistresse Ioane could not heare the mayd, for she would say amisse many times, and then the companie would help her out, but mistresse Ioane did not stay for her, so that she had ended her prayers before the maide had halfe done hers. After this master Doctor Dorington tooke a prayer booke, and read certaine prayers which he thought good, and when he had done, thē mistresse Ioane fell to exhorting of the maide, and gaue her many good exhortations: and as she was thus in speaking to her she fel into a marueilous wéeping, and sobbed so greatly that shee could not well vtter her words, saying, that she would not haue scratched her, but that she was forced vnto it by the spirit. As she was thus complayning, on the sudden mistresse Elizabeth Throckmorton, one of her younger sisters, being suddenly taken in her fitte (for it was not knowne to any in the companie) came hastely vpon the maide and catched her by one of her hands, and faine would haue scratched her, saying that the spirit saith, that she must also scratch her: but the companie willed the maide to kéepe her hand from her, which she did, so they strone together a great while, vntill the child was windlesse. Then sayd the child, will no bodie helpe me, repeating the words twise or thrise: then sayd her sister mistresse Ioane, being still in her fit, shall I helpe you sister Elizabeth? I (sayd she) for Gods sake good sister. So mistresse Ioane came, and tooke one of the maides hands and held it to her sister Elizabeth, and she scratched it vntill bloud came, and séemed to be marueilous ioyfull that she had gotten bloud, she pared her nayles also, and washed her hands and threw all into the fire. After al this before the companie departed, the mayd helped mistresse Ioane out of her fit thrée seuerall times one after the other, by thrée seuerall charges as you haue heard before: and likewise brought mistresse Elizabeth Throckmorton out of her fitte, by saying, as she hath bewitched mistresse Elizabeth Throckmorton since her mother confessed.

We will now leaue mistresse Ioane vnto the Assises day, and retire a little backe againe to mistresse Iane, who is the youngest of master Throckmortons children saue one, and hath dronke as déepe of this cup of affliction as any of al her sisters hath done, and as she first tasted of it, so she was the first that disliked, & disclosed

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the author of it, for she it was that first cryed out of mother Samuel, and sayd that it was she that had bewitched her, before either her parents or any other that came towards her, suspected any witcherie at all, since which time (as there hath béen great cause to thinke) that whereas she was the first that gaue occasion to suspect the old woman, and indéede did her selfe openly accuse her, so shée hath béen therefore amongst all the rest, the most extreamely dealt withall: for there was neuer any of her sisters (mistresse Ioane excepted) that did abide such heauie brunts, such daungerous and mortall temptations, as she hath done, for she hath béen often and diuers times tempted to cast her selfe into the fire, and into the water, and to depriue her selfe of life by cutting her throate with her owne knife. And these things haue thus appeared in her, namely, that she hath many times in her fits, suddenly pulled the knife out of her sheath, and if she had béen abroad, she hath throwne it from her so farre as she could: if within the house sitting at the table, or in any other place, she hath throwne it vnder the table or in some corner of the house, saying, that the spirit doth now tempt her to kill her selfe, but she will not, desiring the Lord to strengthē her against them: and when she hath come out of her fit, she hath acknowledged no such matter, marueiling who hath taken her knife from her: and for the daunger of fire, this thing hath also béen proued many times in her: for she hath prested forwards, and strained her selfe to thrust her head into the fire, and hath béen permitted to come so néere the fire with her head and face, that resting onely vpon the strength of one that did withhold her, had she béen let goe, she had fallen flat into the fire, to her vtter daunger of perishing therein: and the same experience in her hath as often béen made by water, saying alwaies that the diuell doth tempt her to both: yet this hath béen obserued continually in all these temptations, that shée was neuer tempted to any of these daungers (that euer was knowne) being alone, but alwaies when there were some companie and assistance by to helpe her: which thing thus considered, whether it hath proceéded of the gracious prouidence and goodnesse of GOD, which cannot be denied but that it hath shewed it selfe most strange and most wonderfull, both in the preseruation of her, as also in the rest of her sisters in these their troublesome extremities, or whether it hath béen some secret illusiō and mockerie of the diuell to deceiue ỹ standers by, it resteth doubtfull,

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and cannot bée determined amongſt men, but whether one or the other, or whatſoeuer, God deſerueth the glory.

Upon Friday which was the fiftéenth of March 1592. This miſtris Iane was very much troubled with her fit, ſitting at the table in dinner time, as ſhe had béen for a fortnight or thrée weéks before that, more extreamely vſed at meales, then at any other time of the day, for alwaies a little before ſhe ſhould ſit downe either in giuing of thankes, or preſently after her fit would ſurely take her. On this day as ſhe ſate at dinner, ſhe ſéemed that ſome thing that ſate vpon the table, talked vnto her about Nan Samuel, for ſhe would liſten a while vnto it, and then looke backe with an heauie countenaunce vnto the maide, that ſtode behinde her, ſhaking her head as if ſome ſorowe were towards. Now this miſtris Iane had béen often tolde, by her other ſiſters being in their fits, that the ſpirit had told them, that ſhée ſhould alſo ſcratch Nan Samuel before the next Aſſiſes, happen when it ſhould, but ſhe would alwaies make this anſwere to them, that ſhee would not ſcratch her, let the Diuell doe what he could againſt her, albeit the ſpirite had tolde ſo much to her ſelfe as ſhe had oftentimes ſaid, but ſhe alwaies withſtode the ſpirite in words to his face, ſaying that ſhée would not doe it: on this night as ſhée ſate at ſupper with the reſt of her ſiſters, ſhée fell into a very extreame fit, bowing and bending of her body, as if ſhe would haue broken her backe, ſhaking of her hands, as that ſhee could not hold her knife ſtedfaſt, and many times, it would thruſt it againſt her arme. When this fit was ended, then the ſpirit ſéemed to talke to her againe, as it did at dinner, for ſhe vſed the ſame manner of geſture to Agnes Samuel that ſtood behinde her as before, and gaue rather greater ſignes of ſorowe then otherwiſe. On the ſuddaine ſhe aroſe from the table, and went to the vpper end thereof, caſting a marueilous heauie, and diſcontented looke to the maide, whereby it was perceiued that the child had ſomething in her mind that ſhe could not vtter (for her mouth was ſhut vp which did greatly diſlike her) then the maide was willed to aſke her how ſhe did, the childs mouth was preſently opened & ſhe made anſwer to her, ỹ worſe for you, you yong witch, turning away her face from her, as if ſhe loathed to lok on her. This was newes to the maide to be called yong witch at her hand, ſo ſhe continued queſtioning with her, as ſhe was willed, but the child turned away her face, and ſtopped her eare which was next vnto her,

saying that she could not abide to heare her or see her: then ỹ mayd was willed to aske her what the matter was: the child answered, that the Spirite saith that shee must scratch her: when must you scratch me, saith the maide: presently the childs mouth was shut vp that she could make no answere. Then did the child begin to weepe, most lamentable to see, yet so mixed with anger towards the maide, as that oftentimes loking vpon her, she would suddenly turne away her face frō her, with such an yerning voyce, her teeth being set together as if the cull spirit had bēn whetting and kindling her furie against the maide. Continuing thus a quarter of an houre, the maid was moued to aske again when she should scratch her, the child answered by signes, for she could heare her, but not speake, holding vp her finger at (I) and holding it downe at (no) so that it easily might be gathered, that she should scratch her presently after supper so soone as grace was sayd: then the mayd asked in what part she should scratch her: shee answered by signe, that it should be vpon her right hand, which was the contrarie hand to that, which her sister Elizabeth had scratched a weeke before: then master Throckmorton the childs father, caused master Doctor Dorington and some other neighbours in the towne to be sent for, to whom when they were come he declared what the child had vttered concerning the maide. In this time before they were come together, there was halfe an houre spent, all which time the childe continued marueilous pensiue and heauie, weeping very pittifully, yet often fiercely starting out of ỹ place where she sate towards the mayd, as if she would haue fallen vpon her before the time: so one of the children being in her fit gaue thankes, which so soone as euer it was ended, the childe sincking downe vpon her knees (for she could not stand, fell vpon the mayd with such fiercenesse and rage, as if she would haue pulled ỹ flesh of her hand from ỹ bones, yet was she scarcely able to race the skinne, saying to the maid, that the spirit that standeth there by her, telleth her, that Pluck holdeth her heart and her hand (meaning the maids) and will not suffer the bloud to come. When the childe was wearie with scratching, she breathed, and sayd that she must haue another fit at her. Then D. Dorington moued the people to pray with him, all which time shee kneeled very quietly, but when prayers were ended she presently fell to worke againe vpon the maide as before, saying these words to her, with teares trickling downe her cheeks, I would not scratch

you,

you, but the spirit compelleth me, saying, that I must scratch you, as wel as my other sisters haue done, & as my sister Ioane also must doe before the Assises, for this was (if the time bee marked) almost three wækes before the Assises.

The maid at the first scratching, seemed to goe something from her, but the child followed still vpon her knées, saying to her, that she were as good to take it now, as at another time, for she must fetch blood on her, and she must haue her penny worths of her, saying farther, that she knew that she did now crye, (which indeed she did) but she could not heare her (for so much the spirit told her before) because she should not pitie her, when the childe was wearie and windlesse she left scratching, and wiped that little blood and water together, which came from the maids hand vpon her owne hands. Then Doctor Dorington began to instruct the mayd, and to exhort her with many good spæches, saying, that God would surely not suffer her to be thus cryed out vpon by these wicked spirits, and afflicted in this sort by these innocent childrē contrary to their wils, if she were not consenting, or at the least concealing, and of some knowledge of these wicked practises, which her mother had confessed. The mayd very stifly denied all that could bee sayd, and desired God to shewe some present token vpon her, that they all might know that she was guiltie of these matters: presently after these words, her nose began to blæde, and she bled very much, which thing whether it were a signe of Gods sending at that time, in token of her guiltinesse or not, that he knoweth only: and man (I thinke) may without offence greatly suspect. Yet this she could say, being charged withall, that she had bled foure times that day before, which thing was very true, blæding very much euery time, alwayes saying that she had not bled so much to her remembrance in seauen yeares before, wishing that this often blæding would foreshew no euill towards her. In the end the child sayd of her selfe, that the thing which now standeth by her doth tell her, that she must not come forth of her fit, vntill the old man Iohn Samuel the maides father, shall come and pronounce certaine words to her, which she must tell him: then was she asked by the maide and others that stood by, what those words should be, but the child could not heare any body: by and by she said of her selfe, what is her father come into this reckoning now? & shal I neuer come forth of my fit, vntil he speak these words: euen as he is a witch, & cōsented

to the death of the Lady Crumwel, so to charge the spirit to departe from me, and then I shall be well and not before: I did thinke euen so said she, that he was as bad as the worst, he looked so ilfauouredly: then Master Throckmorton hearing those words of his daughter, desired Master Henry Pickering the childes vncle, and two other of the neighbors, to goe see if they could procure him to come, but he refused to come, so the company for that night departed, and the child went to bed in her fit, and so continued vntill the Assises day, as hereafter you shall heare, her father yet not ceasing to send for the man euery day, and to goe to him himselfe, yet could by no meanes procure him to come to his house. On sunday following, which was the 18. of March in the morning, the spirit came againe vnto her, then said the child, the thing saith that I should now both heare and see the young Witch if shee were here (for so the spirites alwaies called her) and see the thing also which I neuer did before, all of them together, then was the maide called for, and asked the childe what the thing saith vnto her, she answered that the thing telleth her, that now she must start aswell as her sister Ioane doth whensoeuer she nameth God, that she must not come forth of her fit, this weeke nor the next, and peraduenture neuer, vntill one of these three things come to passe, which are, either your father (speaking vnto the maide) must come and speake these words to me, euen as he is a Witch, and hath consented to the death of the Lady Crumwel: or you must confesse that you are a Witch, and haue bewitched me and my sisters: or else you must be hanged: then the maide was willed to aske the childe whether she should come forth of her fit, whensoeuer, or whersoeuer her father did speake these words to her: then the childe asked the spirite, and the spirite answered, that she should, and so for that time the thing departed and shee continued in her fit, the manner whereof was as followeth, shee would sit sometimes in the house all the day together, as one in a melancholike passion, not speaking to any body, nor desirous of any company, sometimes againe shee is very lightsome and merrie, and will sporte and play with her sisters a great part of the day, yet not hearing nor seeing any body, neither speaking to any particularly, when any passeth by her, shee will say yonder goeth such a coloured gowne, I meruaile how it goeth alone: yonder is a payre of nether stocks of such a colour, or yonder is a hat, a paire of shoes or a cloake, but I can see nothing else.

If

If one had shewed her their hand with a ring on their finger, she would say, yonder is a ring hangeth in the aire, I marueile how it hangeth and no body hold it: many will thinke these matters incredible, but assuredly they are most true. This thing also was many times proued while those kinde of fits continued vpon her, that sitting at dinner or supper, she should suddēly haue her mouth shut, and if Agnes Samuel had then come, and held a knife to her mouth, and put it betwixt her lippes, her mouth should haue bēen presently opened, and not before, and thus the spirit hath delt with her fiue or sixe times in a dinner while, and in this fit she continued three weekes wanting one day, for so long it toke her before the Assises.

To come therefore now to the Assises day last past on Wednesday the fourth of Aprill, Mistresse Ioane went to Huntington, and as she went vpon the way was very well, as she was also all the morning, and so continued vntill within halfe an houre after she had taken her chamber in the Inne: and then suddenly as she sate by the fire she fell into her fit, and hauing cōtinued so a little space, there came diuers vp into the chamber to see her, who perceiuing that she sate so quietly, would not be perswaded of any thing to be amisse in her: many of them toke her by the hand, and spake to her as they thought good, but she neither heard nor perceiued any thing at all. Then some of the companie turned them to the mayd Agnes Samuel, who stode by her, and came that morning with Mistresse Ioane from Warboyse, and enquiring of her concerning her faith and seruice of God, she answered that shee serued GOD as other people did: when she named God, mistresse Ioane began to start and struggle with her armes, as if all had not bēen well, which the companie perceiuing, brought her something nēerer, and willed her to say the Lords prayer and her beléefe, which the maid began to doe, but before she went halfe through, the companie desired her for compassion sake to stay her prayers: for the Gentlewoman mistresse Ioane was so grieuously tormented in her bodie, as that it set them all in a maze that saw it, & were resolued of that whereof before they stode doubtfull, namely, that mistresse Ioane was not in perfect estate: So the companie continued their spēech to the mayd, and euer as by occasion she named God or Iesus Christ, mistresse Ioane started and strugled with her selfe, shiuering and shaking of her armes and shoulders in that manner, as that euerie

body perceiued easily ẏ it was not possible for any so to do of themselues, yea and many times when no body noted the name of God to be vttered by the maid, yet would mistris Ioan put them in mind thereof by her strugling. And if the maide chanced to double the name of God in her mouth, as to say the God of heauen and earth, or Iesus Christ the sonne of God, it would not suffer her to sit vpon her stole: But when she desired the God of heauen and earth to helpe her, or Iesus Christ the sonne of God to bee mercifull to her, why then it would so strangely torment her, as that they that saw it could not tell whether they should more wonder to see the sight, then lament and pittie the Gentlewomans case: then a Gentleman in the company (well acquainted with those maners) willed the mayd to say to Mistresse Ioan, my GOD helpe you, or my God preserue and deliuer you, or the God whome I serue defend you and be mercifull vnto you, which she did, but mistresse Ioan neuer once moued thereat, but when she was willed againe to say Iesus Christ deliuer you, or the God of heauen and earth helpe you, then would she so struggle and grone, as that all the chamber sounded withall. And this was proued an hundred times that day, before fiue hundred men at seuerall times, and in the same euening after the Court was broken vp, Master Iustice Fenner, who for that time was Judge alone, had a desire to see mistris Ioan Throckmorton, then being at the signe of the Crowne in Huntington, being the place where the said Judge then lodged, and went into the garden to the said Mistresse Ioan, then being in the company with other women, there the Judge with a great assembly of Iustices and Gentlemen met the said Mistresse Ioan Throcmorton in a faire Alley, being at that present out of her fit, and perfectly well, and after some speeches made by the said Judge to mistresse Ioan, she fel into one of her ordinary fits, her eyes closed vp, shaking her shoulders and her armes stretched out right, ready to fall to the ground, but that she was assisted by her father, and not being able to stand, shee was lead into an Arbour, whither also went both the Judge, and the other company, there they saw the said Mistris Ioan grieuously tormented most pitifull to behold, many good prayers were made both by the Judge and all the company, but no ease appeared: then the father of the sayd Mistresse Ioan told the Judge that there was one in the company (naming Agnes Samuel) that if shee would say certayne words in the manner of a charge, that then the

sayde

sayde Mistresse Ioan shall bee presently well, a thing desired of all the company, therefore the Iudge caused the sayd Agnes Samuel to stand forward, and to know the charge, which was repeated by Master Throckmorton father of the sayd Mistresse Ioan, the words were these: As I am a Witch, and a worse Witch then my mother, and did consent to the death of the Lady Cromwel, so I charge the diuel to let mistresse Ioan Throckmorton come out of her fit at this present. But before Agnes Samuel spoke the charge to make some tryall in others of the effect thereof, the Iudge himselfe, Doctor Dorington, Master Throckmorton and others, spake the words of the charge, but the said Mistresse Ioan had small ease by their speeches, neither would she come out of her fit: then both the Iudge and the other company made many good prayers and petitions to God, but no amendment appeared: after this Agnes Samuel was commaunded by the Iudge to make some good prayers to God for the ease of the sayd Mistris Ioan, which she did, at which time if the said Agnes Samuel had prayed to God or Iesus Christ, then the said mistris Ioan was in shew more troubled then before, and the reason was foretolde by the said mistresse Ioan, and al her other sisters by the spirit, that whensoeuer the saide Agnes did vse the name of God or Iesus Christ, they should be worse troubled then whē any other spake the words, for he that is perfect God almighty will not suffer his name to bee vsed in the mouth of such a wicked creature, which was then proued true: then Agnes Samuel was commanded to say, as I am no Witch, neither did consent to the death of the Lady Cromwel, so I charge the diuel to let mistris Ioan come out of her fit at this present, but all this was to no purpose: lastly the sayd Agnes Samuel was commanded to say the right charge, which was, as I am a Witch, and a worse witch then my mother, and did consent to the death of the Lady Cromwel, so I charge ẏ diuel to let mistris Ioan Throck. come out of her fit at this present. These words were no sooner spoken by the sayd Agnes Samuel, but the said mistresse Ioan Throckmorton wiped her eyes and came out of her fit, and made lowe reuerence to the Iudge, & so shee remained about halfe a quarter of an houre, & then she fel into another kind of fit, first shaking one leg & after the other, then one arme & after the other, & then her head & shoulders, with other extraordinarie passions, to the great grief of them that were present: but the

Iudge

Iudge greatly lamenting the case. When both hee & many others had made some good prayers (and finding no ease) caused the said Agnes Samuel to repeat another charme, viz. As I am a Witch & would haue bewitched to death Mistris Ioane Throckmorton in her last weeke of her great sicknes, so I charge thee Diuel to let Mistris Ioane come out of her fit at this present: which words being saide by the said Agnes Samuel, the said Mistris Ioane was presently well. Then the Iudge asked her where she had been: Shee aunswered, I haue beene asleepe. I pray god, said the Iudge, send you no more such sleepes. Soone after, shee fell into one of her other ordinarie fittes, with a most strange & terrible kind of neesing, & other passions, the which was so vehement & pittifull to be heard, that it moued all the companie at one instant, to pray to God to saue her, fearing that her head would haue burst in sunder, or her eies start out of the same, so ỹ the Iudge made smal delay, but caused the said Agnes Samuel to speak the other charme, which, was, As I am a witch, and did bewitch Mistris Pickering of Ellington, since my mothers confession: so I charge thee diuel, to let Mistris Ioane come out of her fit at this present: which words being spoken, presently the said Mistris Ioane was wel as euer shee was in her life, & so hath continued without any griefe or fits til this day. The Lord be thanked therefore.

The next day being thursday in the morning, there were three seuerall Inditemens made, & deliuered to the great Inquest, whereof the one was against olde father Samuel, old mother Samuel, and Agnes their daughter, for bewitching vnto death the Ladye Cromwell, late wife of Sir Henry Cromwell of Finchingbrook in the countie of Huntington Knight, contrary to Gods Lawes & the statute made in the xv. yeare of the Queenes Maiesties reigne that now is &c.

The other two Inditements were framed vpon the sayd statute for bewitching of Mistresse Ioane Throckmorton, Mistresse Iane Throckmorton and others, contrarie to the sayd statute. The Inditements being deliuered to the grand Iury, the euidence was giuen them priuatly by master Dorington Doctor of Diuinitie, and Parson of the towne of Warboyse aforesayd, by Gilbert Pickering of Tichmersh in the Countie of Northampton Esquire, by Robert Throckmorton Esquire, father of the sayd children, by Robert Throckmorton of Brampton in the said Countie of Huntington Esquire,

quire, by Iohn Pickering and Henry Pickering Gentlemen, and by Thomas Nut, master of Arte, and Vicar of Ellingtõn. The graund Iury made no great delay, but found them all guiltie. And about eyght of the clocke, the euidence by the forenamed Gent. was openly at large deliuered in the Court, to the Iury of life and death: and with great patience of the Iudge, it was continued till one of the clocke in the after none. So many of these prowfes, presumptions, circumstances, & reasons contained in this booke, was at large deliuered, as that time would affoord, which was 5. houres, without intermission or interruption, vntill both the Iudge, Iustices, and Iury said openly that the cause was most apparant: their consciences were well satisfied, that the sayd Witches were guiltie, & had deserued death: and therewithall the Gent. ceased to giue any further euidence. And this as no smal thing is to be remembred, that Mistris Iane Throckmorton on Friday the xvi. of March last past being in one of her accustomed fits, saide that the spirit tolde her, she should neuer come out of her fit, vntil olde father Samuel had said these wordes: As I am a Witch, & consented to the death of the Lady Crumwel, so I charge the diuell, to suffer Mistris Iane to come out of her fit. And this she published openly in the hearing of many: therefore her father sought meanes, both by himselfe and others, to haue Iohn Samuel come to his house to the child, but they could not preuaile: wherefore the said Iane continued in her senceles fits with many pangues and verations in euery parte, as they are before described, from the saide xvi. of March, til the fourth of April, which was three weeks wanting a day: which day also the said Mistris Iane was brought to Huntington, and there in her fit was set in the Court before the Iudge, where many questions were demanded of her, but she answered to none, for ỹ diuel would not suffer her to speake: her eyes were open, yet such a mist was before thẽ, ỹ she neither knew, neither did see her father, which was nere her, & diuers of her vncles & friends. Then the Iudge caused olde Samuel to be brought from amongst the other prisoners to the vpper barre, neere vnto the place where the Clerkes sate: where also stoode the saide Iane. (And the Iudge being before tolde, that if olde Samuel would speake the wordes before recited, the sayd Iane should bee well.) The Iudge therefore asked him whether he by any means could cause the said Iane to come forth of her fitte, who denied the same. Then the Iudge sayd, as he was enformed,

that he ỹ said Samuel had a charme made of certaine words, which if he would speake them, the childe should be well: therefore the Iudge recited the charme, and willed him to speake the words: but he refused the same and sayd, I will not speake them. The Iudge perswaded him, and intreated him, insomuch that the saide Iudge, the rather to incourage the said Samuel, spake himselfe openly the charme, so did also master Doctor Dorington, and others then present (by the Iudges appoyntment:) yet he refused the same. Many good and godly prayers were openly made to GOD, both by the Iudge and others, for the ease of the childe: whereat the childe séemed nothing to be moued. Then the Iudge willed Samuel to pray vnto God for the comfort of the Childe, which he did, but when he named God or Iesus Christ, the childes head, shoulders, & armes were sore shaken, and in shew more troubled then before. Then ỹ Iudge sayd, that if he would not speake the wordes of the charme, the court would hold him guiltie of the crimes whereof he was accused: and so at the length, with much adoe, the said Samuel (with a loude voyce) said in the hearing of all that were present: As I am a Witch, and did consent to the death of the Lady Cromwel, so I charge the diuell to suffer Mistris Iane to come out of her fit at this present.

Which words, being no sooner spoken by the old Witch, but the said mistresse Iane, as her accustomed order was, wiped her eyes, and came out of her fit: and then séeing her father, knéeled downe, and asked him blessing, & made reuerence to her vncles that stode néere her: which before she toke no shew of knowledge: and wondering said: O Lord, father where am I? For that as it séemed she neither saw nor heard before, nor knew how she was brought into such a presence. Then the Iudge sayd: you sée all, shée is nowe well: but not with the musicke of Dauids harpe, alluding to the place of Scripture, where King Saul being vexed by an euill spirit receiued comfort and helpe when Dauid played on his harpe before him. Then the confession of old mother Samuel (before specified) made the 26. day of December 1592. last past at Burkden, before the reuerent father in God, William, Bishop of Lincolne, was opẽly red: So also was read the confession of the said mother Samuel made at Burkden afore said the 29 day of Decẽber 1592. before the said reuerend father in God, William, Bishop of Lincolne, Frances Cromwel, and Richard Tryce Esquires, Iustices of her Maiesties

peace

peace within the countie of Huntington, which also is before specified. After these confessions read and deliuered to the Iury, it pleased God for the further proofe and ouerthrowe of these wicked persons to reare vp moe witnesses at that time vnexpected, who spake some things of their owne knowledge, and some of reporte: the first was Robert Poulter vicar and Curat of Brampton afore said, who said openly that one of his parishioners called Iohn Langley, at that instant being very sicke in his bed, had tolde him, that one day he being at Huntington at the signe of the crowne, did in the hearing of olde mother Samuel forbid master Knowles of Brampton afore-said, to giue her any meate, for that shee was an olde Witch: and thereupon in the afternoon, as he went from Huntington to Brampton, hauing a good horse vnder him, he presently died in the field: & within two dayes after, by the prouidence of God, he did escape death, twice or thrice very dangerously: and though it pleased God not to suffer the diuel to haue the mastery of his body at that time, yet presently after, hée lost as many good and sound Cattell to all mens iudgements, as were worth twentie markes: himselfe, not long after, in bodie extraordinarily handled. And the same night of the day of Assises, as after it proued true, the same Iohn Langley died. Also the forenamed master Robert Throckmorton of Brampton, (which before had giuen some euidence against the said Witches in the childrens behalfe,) now he spake for himselfe, that hée likewise at Huntington & in other places hauing dealt very roughly in spéeches with the saide mother Samuel: On Friday the tenth day following, had one of his two yéere-olde beasts dyed: and on Sunday next after another beast of the same company and like age died also. The next wéeke after on Friday, he had a yéereling Calfe died, and the next Sunday following, he had another calfe of the same company and like age died also. The next wéeke after, on Friday he had an Hog died, and the next Sunday after, hée had a Sowe hauing tenne Pigges sucking on her died also. Whereupon aduice was giuen him, that whatsoeuer thing next dyed, to make a hole in the ground, & burne the same. Likewise the fourth wéeke on Friday hée had a very fayre Cowe worth foure markes died, and his seruants made a hole in the ground & buried the same Cowe in it, and threw faggots and fire on her and burnt her: and after that, all his cattell did well. Of this last matter, mother Samuel being examined the night before her execution, she confessed

the bewitching of the sayd Cattell, in manner and forme as is declared.

Then the Jaylor of Huntington gaue this euidence, That a man of his finding mother Samuel very vnruly whilest she was prisoner, at a time chained her to a bed-post: wherefore, not long after his man fell sicke, and in all respects was handled as the forenamed children were, with heauing vp and downe of his bodie, shaking his armes, legges and head, hauing more strength in him in his fits, then any two men had, crying out of mother Samuel, saying that she did bewitch him: and thus remaining in this extraordinarie course of sickneste, about fiue or sixe daies after dyed.

The sayd Jaylor sayd also, that not long after the death of his seruant, hee had one of his sonnes fell sicke, and was for the most part handled as his seruant before named was: so that it was most apparant that he was bewitched: therefore the sayd Jaylor went into the prison, and brought mother Samuel to his sonnes bed-side, and there held her vntill his sonne had scratched her, and so presently his sonne amended. And to draw to some ende, the Jury of life and death, in the afternoone, found all the Inditements *Billa vera*, which when old father Samuel heard, he said to his wife in the hearing of many: A plague of God light vpon thée, for thou art she that hath brought vs all to this, and wée may thanke thée for it.

Then the Judge grew to sentence, and asked old father Samuel what hée had to say for himselfe, why iudgement of death shoulde not bée pronounced on him: Whereat he answered, that he had nothing to say, but the Lord haue mercie on him. Then the Judge asked olde mother Samuel what she had to say for her selfe, to stay Iudgement: Whereat shée aunswered, that shée was with childe: which set all the company on a great laughing, and shée her selfe more than any other, because as she thought, there should (for that cause) no iudgement haue béene giuen. Her age was nére fourescore, therefore the Judge moued her to leaue that answere: but in no case she would be driuen from it, till at length, a Jury of women were empaneled, and sworne to search her: who gaue vp their verdite, that she was not with childe, vnlesse (as some saide) it was with the diuell, and no marueile: for after shée was found guiltie, there went the forenamed Maister Henry Pickering vnto her where shee stoode amongst the Prisoners

to

to perſwade her to confeſſe the trueth, and amongſt other things ſhe confeſſed, that the foꝛenamed William Langley, who gaue vnto her the Spirits, had carnall knowledge of her bodie, when ſhe receiued them. Some are of opinion, that it was the diuell in mans likeneſſe.

After all this, the Iudge aſked Agnes Samuel the daughter, what ſhe had to ſay, why iudgement of Death ſhould not be giuen her. At which time there was one (being a pꝛiſoner) ſtanding by her, that willed her to ſay that ſhe was alſo with child. Nay, ſayd ſhe, that will I not doe: it ſhall neuer be ſayd, that I was both a Witch and a whoꝛe. And ſo the Iudge after verie ſound and diuine councell giuen ſeuerally to them all, pꝛocæded to iudgement, which was vnto death. The next day, certaine godly men went to the pꝛiſon to perſwade the condemned parties to repentance, and to confeſſe their ſins to the woꝛld, and craue pardon at Gods mercifull hands: at which time mother Samuel being aſked by maſter Iohn Dorington Eſquire, one of her Maiſties Iuſtices of the Countie of Huntington, whether ſhe did not bewitch the Ladie Cromwell? She ſayd, no foꝛſooth I did not. Then her huſband olde father Samuel ſtanding behinde, and hearing her denie the ſame, ſayd, denie it not, but confeſſe the trueth: foꝛ thou didſt it one way oꝛ other.

The confeſſion of the olde woman of *Alice Samuel*, vnto certaine queſtions that were demaunded of her, by maſter Doctor *Chamberlin*, at the time and place of her execution being vpon the ladder.

FIrſt, being demaunded what the names of thoſe ſpirits (wherewith ſhee bewitched) were called, ſhee ſayd, they were called Pluck, Catch and White, the which names ſhe often repeated. Being aſked whether ſhe had bewitched the Lady Cromwell to death oꝛ not: She anſwered, that ſhe had. Being aſked with which of her ſpirits ſhe did bewitch the ſayd Ladie to death: She ſaid, with Catch. And being demaunded foꝛ what cauſe ſhe did it: She anſwered: Foꝛ that the ſayd Ladie had cauſed ſome of her haire and her haire-lace to be burned: and that ſhe ſayd, Catch willed her to be reuenged of the ſayd Ladie: and that thereupon the ſayd mother Samuel bid him goe and do what he would. And being aſked, what

Catch ſayd to her when he came backe againe: She confeſſed that he ſayd, that he had bẽn reuenged of her. Moreouer ſhe confeſſed, and vpon her death did ſay for trueth, that ſhe was guiltie of the death of the Ladie Cromwell. Being demannded, whether ſhe had bewitched maſter Throckmortons children: She confeſſed, that ſhe had done it. Being aſked with which of her Spirits: She ſaid, that it was Pluck. Being aſked what ſhe ſaid to him when ſhe ſent him about that matter: She confeſſed, that ſhe willed him goe torment them, but not hurt them. Being aſked, how long they ſhould be in that caſe: She ſayd, ſhe could not tell: and that ſhe did not ſée Pluck ſince Chriſtmas laſt. Being aſked, what ſhe did with White? She ſayd, that ſhe neuer did hurt with him: and that ſhée had ſent him to the ſea, and that he had ſucked vpon her chinne, but the other two had not any reward. And likewiſe ſhee confeſſed, that ſhe had thoſe Spirits of one, whoſe name (ſhe ſaid) was Langley: where he dwelleth ſhe knewe not. And for that her huſband would not confeſſe any thing of the witchcraft at the time of his death, nor of the priuitie of himſelfe or his daughter, as acceſſaries to the ſame: it was demaunded of her, whether her huſband was priuie to the death of the Ladie Cromwell or not: She anſwered, he was.

Being demaunded, whether her huſband was a Witch, or had any ſkill in witchcraft: She ſayd, he had, and could both bewitch and vnwitch: but touching her daughter, ſhee would in no ſort confeſſe any thing, but ſought by all meanes to cléere her. And for her daughter her ſelfe, ſhe confeſſed nothing at all touching the witchcraft: but being willed by maſter Doctor Chamberlin to ſay the Lords prayer and the Créede, when as ſhe ſtood vpon the ladder readie to be executed, ſhe ſayd the Lords prayer, vntil ſhe came to ſay, But deliuer vs from euill, the which by no meanes ſhe could pronounce: and in the Créede ſhe miſſed very much, and could not ſay, that ſhe beléeued the Catholike Church.

After the execution was ended, and that theſe thrée perſons were throughly dead, the Jaylor (whoſe office it is to ſée them buryed) ſtripped off their clothes, and being naked, he found vpon the body of the olde woman Alice Samuel, a little lumpe of fleſh, in manner ſticking out as if it had bẽn a teate, to the length of halfe an inch, which both he and his wife perceiuing, at the firſt ſight thereof meant not to diſcloſe, becauſe it was adioyning to ſo ſecret a place,

which

which was not decent to be seene: yet in the ende, not willing to conceale so straunge a matter, and decently couering that priuie place a little aboue which it grewe, they made open shewe thereof vnto diuers that stood by. After this, the Jaylors wife tooke the same teate in her hand, and seeming to straine it, there issued out at the first as if it had been beestenings, (to vse the Jaylors worde) which is a mixture of yellow milke and water: at the second time there came out in similitude as cleere milke, and in the ende very bloud it selfe. For the trueth of this matter, it is not to be doubted of any: for it is not onely the Jaylors report vnto all that require of him, but there are fourtie others also in Huntington-shire of honest conuersation, that are readie to confirme the same vpon their owne sight.

And thus ye haue the storie of these three Witches of Warboyse, so plainly and briefely, as may be deliuered vnto you. If any bee desirous to know the present estate of these children, how they are and haue bin since the death of these parties: you shall vnderstand, that since their day of execution, not any one of them haue had any fit at all, neither yet grudging or complayning of any such thing, but haue all of them been in as good estate and as perfect health as euer from their birth. Gods blessed name be euermore praised for the same. Amen.

FINIS.